

Hafa Adai!

Resolution wants CNMI exempted from cockfighting ban. PAGE 2
Cannabis Commission is complete. PAGE 5

75¢

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2009 class action vs Mobil, Shell is back

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The lead lawyer in the case is already dead, and so is the lead plaintiff. Another lawyer in the case has already been disbarred. Yet a class

action lawsuit filed in 2009 against Mobil and Shell for alleged price fixing in the CNMI is back alive.

This developed after Superior Court Associate Judge

Kenneth L. Govendo on Monday turned down a request by Mobil Oil Mariana Islands Inc. and Mariana Acquisition Corp., which owns Shell Mar-

See 2009 on Page 4

House divvies up IPI renewal fee

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The House of Representatives moved yesterday to appropriate the \$15.5 million casino license renewal

fee to several government agencies, but with stringent reporting requirements and a promise to pay back the local delegations that were supposed to get the money

See HOUSE on Page 4

INDIGENOUS HEALING

IVA MAURIN

Local healer Rosa Salalila explains the passing of traditional healing knowledge to Miss Marianas Shannon Sasamoto while preparing a local detox medicine. Salalila was one of the Chamorro artists featured at the Indigenous Affairs Office's mini-cultural expo last Saturday at the IAO office in Garapan.

Story on Page 5

Torres starts review of \$233M budget

FY 2020 BUDGET (PARTIAL)

\$5,669,224.00 (JUDICIARY)
\$6,756,666.00 (LEGISLATURE)
\$1,755,515.00 (DOC)
\$3,352,372.00 (DCCA)
\$5,108,905.00 (DFEMS)
\$4,449,894.00 (CORRECTIONS)
\$6,582,426.00 (DOF)
\$1,131,449.00 (DOL)
\$3,240,923.00 (DLNR)
\$6,936,138.00 (DPS)
\$2,928,389.00 (DPW)
\$4,103,865.00 (DPL)
\$3,201,629.00 (ROTA)
\$4,030,208.00 (TINIAN)
\$2,900,971.00 (SAIPAN)
\$495,507.00 (NI)
\$551,479.00 (CANNABIS COMMISSION)
\$2,020,000.00 (CHCC)
\$5,965,277.00 (NMC)
\$37,718,904.00 (PSS)

Judiciary	\$5,669,224
Legislature	\$6,756,666
Governor's and Lt. Governor's	\$2,102,895
Department of Commerce	\$1,755,515
Department of Community and Cultural Affairs	\$3,352,372
DFEMS	\$5,108,905
Department of Corrections	\$4,449,894
Department of Finance	\$6,582,426
Department of Labor	\$1,131,449
Department of Lands and Natural Resources	\$3,240,923
Department of Public Safety	\$6,936,138
Department of Public Works	\$2,928,389
Department of Public Lands	\$4,103,865
Rota Mayor's Office	\$3,201,629
Rota Municipal Council	\$298,618
Tinian Mayor's Office	\$4,030,208
Tinian Municipal Council	\$201,814
Saipan Mayor's Office	\$2,900,971
Saipan Municipal Council	\$149,792
Northern Islands Mayor's Office	\$495,507
Commonwealth Cannabis Commission	\$551,479
CNMI Scholarship Office	\$1,985,039
Commonwealth Health Care Corp.	\$2,020,000
Northern Marianas College	\$5,965,277
Public School System	\$37,718,904
Board of Education	\$322,837
NMC Board of Regents	\$107,853

Graphic: Staff, Saipan Tribune

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' team has started their review of the \$233-million budget bill for the upcoming fiscal year, 19

RELATED NEWS

Monthly revenue reports required in FY 2020 budget. PAGE 3

days before his Sept. 30, 2019, deadline.

Torres said yesterday that his office, through the Office of the Attorney General and the Office on Management and Budget, has started reviewing the 49-page leg-

See TORRES on Page 4

Cop gets 7 days in prison for stealing candy

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A police officer accused of stealing snacks at a gas station in Susupe while on duty has pleaded guilty to theft, earning him a seven-day prison sentence under the plea deal.

Koji Maurice Nicky Tai-

sacan, 28, admitted to taking the candies and drink, saying he thought he "could get away with it."

Taisacan submitted his guilty plea in the middle of his bench trial last Monday afternoon.

Pursuant to the plea agree-
See COP on Page 4

19 DAYS LEFT
BEFORE CW-1 PERMITS EXPIRE

INSIDE



BUSINESS

The Cave Shop sends a vibe of liveliness and diversity in island living.

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NATION

More than 100 Bahamians who hoped to evacuate to Florida are kicked off a ferry.

PAGE 14



ASIA

North Korea launches two missiles after the North offered to resume nuclear diplomacy with the U.S.

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Local

Joint resolution wants the CNMI exempted from cockfighting ban

A bid urging Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) to introduce legislation to exempt the CNMI from the federal cockfighting ban passed the House of Representatives during their session last Friday afternoon on Capitol Hill.

Introduced by Rep. Luis John Castro (R-Saipan), his House Joint Resolution 21-6 passed with a vote of 13-2-1, with Reps. Tina Sablan (Ind-Saipan) and Donald Manglona (Ind-Rota) voting against and Rep. Edwin K. Propst (Ind-Saipan) abstaining.

The resolution urges the delegate to seek an exemption for the CNMI in the cockfighting ban imposed on all U.S. territories in the 2018 Farm Bill—a provision in the legislation that has been opposed by the insular territories.

"I am conflicted because I understand the passion and the strong feelings that are associated with some in our community that see cockfighting as a cultural practice. I sympathize with them," Sablan said in a statement. "But I also have some un-

derstanding of the dynamics in Congress and what we will effectively be asking our delegate to do. ... This Farm Act passed overwhelmingly. It was 300-some votes and a handful of no votes," she noted.

She noted that should a legislation preventing animal abuse had been passed, then it would have been an easier sell in Congress.

"The perception in Congress is that animal fighting is inhumane. When they look at our laws and we have not even passed an animal cruelty protection law, that just reinforces that perception," she said.

"I would like to ask the members to reconsider this approach. We already have one example of our law [cannabis legalization law] going up against federal law and we also have a U.S. Attorney General's opinion... that things like cockfighting are really the purview of a... territory, so we can take a different approach," she noted.

"This joint resolution, I don't see this [being] taken seriously," she added.

Propst opted to abstain because he believes voting on the resolution would affect his House Bill 21-59, the proposed Animal Protection Act. The bill seeks to protect animals that are considered domesticated. It is also the third iteration of a proposed animal protection legislation.

"... It is something that has been longstanding. ... It does put in some conflict for myself," he said. "The bill would never have support if [I] blocked cockfighting."

Propst noted that his legislation is set to be discussed on the House floor soon. It is currently at the House Judicial and Governmental Operations Committee and, according to vice speaker Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan), the committee is leaning toward recommending it for passage.

"We can hopefully pass it in unison as it was always passed," Propst said, adding that the previous iterations of his legislation always got stuck in the Senate. *(Erwin Encinares)*



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Monthly revenue reports required in FY 2020 budget

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Among several Senate changes to the fiscal year 2020 budget that Gov. Ralph DLG Torres will have to look at include having the Department of Finance submit monthly reports in order to keep track of finances throughout the fiscal year.

In their House-approved version of the budget bill, the Senate required the Finance

CHCC: No cases linked to e-cigarettes here

So far, there have been no cases relating to lung diseases arising from the use of e-cigarettes in the Commonwealth to date, according to the Commonwealth Health Care Corp.

CHCC spokesperson Zoe Travis assured, though, that CHCC remains vigilant and is keeping its eyes out if any such situation were to occur.

CHCC received a notice from the Centers for Disease Control Prevention last Aug. 23 about cases of persons using e-cigarettes in the U.S. mainland who have developed severe lung diseases. Travis said that these cases have been reported in Wisconsin, Illinois, California, New York, Indiana, and Utah.

CHCC urges e-cigarette users who develop any respi-

secretary to submit monthly reports to the Legislature comparing actual revenues collected and estimated revenues; actual expenditures and appropriated expenditures; and quarterly reports of funds transferred out.

The amendment, which Sen. Sixto K. Igisomar (R-Saipan) championed at the Senate, was adopted by the House of Representatives in their session last Friday, Sept. 6, 2019.

The budget bill's author, ratory symptoms, including cough, shortness of breath, and fatigue to immediately see a doctor. Travis said that if the physician suspects symptoms related to e-cigarette use, further testing will be conducted such as chest x-rays or computed tomography, or CT chest scans, for further evaluation.

CHCC urges those who know someone using e-cigarettes and would like to quit to contact the CHCC's Division of Public Health, Tobacco Prevention and Control Program at (670) 323-7848 (QUIT). Staff are there to take calls from 7:30am to 4:30pm on weekdays, except on holidays. Interested clients can call and leave a message at any time and a staff member will always get back to them. (*Marc A. Venus*)

Rep. Ivan A. Blanco (R-Saipan), told *Saipan Tribune* that he supported the new reporting requirement to help paint a clearer picture for future budget bills.

"There were several clauses inserted in the recently passed budget to ensure timely financial information be provided to the presiding officers of the Legislature after each quarter. We felt such information would serve the Legislature better with up-to-date information, rather than waiting for the end of the fiscal year," he told *Saipan Tribune*. "While we understand this is an additional burden on the Department of Finance and Office of Management and Budget, we felt timely financial information gives legislators a clearer and timely financial information to make well-informed decisions."

Other Senate amendments that the House also adopted included the preparedness for Medicaid reimbursement at the federal level.

In anticipation of the possible reimbursement of Medicaid funds through H.R. 2328, which is set to start in fiscal year 2020, the budget bill also redirects the expected \$5.32 million to the Public School System.

The House also approved

Senate changes that included allocating \$1.3 million from the CW fee funds to the newly created Northern Marianas Technical Institute for its curriculum, apprenticeships, and other training programs, provided, however, that NMTI also offer classes on Rota and Tinian through these islands' high schools.

It also mandates that \$600,000 of the CW fees go to PSS for their Career and Technical Education Program in their high schools; \$500,000 would go to the Northern Marianas College for vocational education, apprenticeships, or other training programs provided that \$50,000 of the funds allocated to NMC shall be used for the college's nursing program equipment and supplies; and the remaining \$100,000 would go to the Department of Commerce, Statistics Division for the CNMI prevailing wage study.

U.S. Public Law 115-218 stated that the funds collected from the CW fees shall only fund vocational education

programs, apprenticeships, or other training programs geared toward training future U.S. workers. In line with the federal mandate, the Senate disallowed any reallocations or re-appropriations of the mentioned funds for other purposes through the budget bill.

The fiscal year 2020 budget bill is currently on the governor's desk for review. The governor has until Sept. 30, 2019, to act on the legislation. Failure to enact a budget by the deadline will result in a partial shutdown of the CNMI government until a budget is enacted.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
 Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-19-014, Rev.1

SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF PRIMARY SCREEN, GRIT & FOG REMOVAL EQUIPMENT

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified vendors for the supply and delivery of Primary Screen, Grit and Fog Removal Equipment for the Sadog Tasi Wastewater Treatment Plant at CUC Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 (non-refundable) for one RFP package set. The RFP package consisting of the specifications and scope-of-work will be emailed to all registered prospective proposers email ID. Prospective Proposers must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

A Proposal Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total proposal price must accompany the proposals. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or proposal bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety.

One (1) original and four (4) hard copies, must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-19-014, Rev.1, Supply and Delivery of Primary Screen, Grit and Fog Removal Equipment for the Sadog Tasi Wastewater Treatment Plant, Saipan" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **September 16, 2019 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on August 23, 2019** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator at email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Westen Knudsen, P.E., Senior Engineer for Water/Wastewater at email address westen.knudsen@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrative Technician, Senior at email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

WILLIAM GILMORE
 Acting, Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN, JR.
 Purchasing Administrator

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
 Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-19-024

W-6 Sewer Lift Station Elimination

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the W-6 Sewer Lift Station Elimination in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The project consists of the installation of gravity sewer main, new service laterals, connection to existing laterals, the abandonment of existing sewer manholes, and the elimination of the old W-5 wet well and the W-6 sewer lift station.

The project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and CUC. The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEPA.

CUC requires the project to be completed in **270 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The IFB package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **September 12, 2019 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No. 7, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) Original and Five (5) Hard Copies of the bid must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-19-024, W-6 Sewer Lift Station Elimination" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on September 27, 2019**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of *fifteen percent (15%)* of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The bid guarantee may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. A Performance Bond of *one hundred percent (100%)* of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC. A Payment Bond of *one hundred percent (100%)* of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers questions, concerns and qualification should be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract. Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. The award of a contract may be contingent upon the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission's (CPUC) approval. If CPUC approval is required, the contract will not be executed by CUC until such approval is provided. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on September 16, 2019** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org, with a copy to Larry Manacop, Water/Wastewater Engineer via email at larry.manacop@cucgov.org, Nicolette Villagomez, Water/Wastewater Engineer via email at nicolette.villagomez@cucgov.org, and Ms. Christie Sablan, Purchasing Technician, Senior, via email address at christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in said bid proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
 Executive Director

MANNY BOYER SABLAN
 Purchasing Administrator

2009

From Page 1

ianas, to dismiss the lawsuit for failure to prosecute.

The plaintiffs filed the case in 2009. Since then, the lawsuit was dismissed, appealed, reversed, and remanded.

Govendo said that after the case returned to court in 2013, the plaintiffs' lead counsel, Ramon Quichocho, has since been disbarred, others have withdrawn from the case, and another lawyer, Edward C. Arriola, has died.

Now, Govendo said, the new counsel for the plaintiff, has entered his appearance and has requested a trial date and a scheduling order.

"Such an initiative demonstrates plaintiffs' desire to finally resolve this matter," said Govendo in denying Mobil and Shell's motion to dismiss the case.

According to court documents, Rabby F. Syed filed the class action in 2009, seeking damages from the defendants for allegedly conspiring to illegally set gasoline prices in the Commonwealth. Syed filed the class action on behalf of all drivers on Saipan who use unleaded fuel.

That same year, in 2009, Shell Company Pacific Islands

Limited entered into a purchase agreement with IP&E Holdings, LLC. The agreement was for IP&E to purchase all the stock in Mariana Acquisition Corp., Shell's then wholly-owned subsidiary. The sale closed shortly after Syed filed his lawsuit, and IP&E assumed control of MAC in 2010.

Defendants then filed motions to dismiss the case in January 2010. The court granted the motion but allowed class action plaintiffs to amend the lawsuit, which they did. But the court granted the defendants' new motions to dismiss in March 2011, leaving plaintiffs without leave to amend.

Plaintiffs then appealed the court's decision to the CNMI Supreme Court. On Dec. 31, 2012, the high court upheld the dismissal of most claims but reversed and remanded the claims for unjust enrichment and violation of the CNMI Consumer Protection Act.

In 2013, the case returned to the Superior Court, and the defendants submitted their responses.

In 2014, the plaintiffs' lead counsel, Ramon Quichocho, was suspended from practicing law. Plaintiffs later served a request for production of documents. Defendants disagreed with some requests, so the parties met to discuss the

scope of production.

In February 2015, the new counsel for plaintiffs entered their appearances, and Edward Arriola took over as lead counsel.

Plaintiffs filed a second amended complaint in July 2015, omitting the dismissed causes of action and replacing Syed with Leo G. Pangelinan. Other named plaintiffs are Eulogio M. Sablan, Jose T. Limes, Jose P. Kiyoshi, and Felipe Q. Atalig.

Both defendants filed answers in August 2015. A couple of months later, the parties stipulated to a protective order regarding the production of documents. The court granted the protective order in February 2016, and defendants began to produce responsive documents, completing production in September 2016.

In January 2017, Charles P. Reyes withdrew as one of the counsels in the case and, in May, lead attorney Arriola died. As a result, Michael W. Dotts took over the case. However, Arriola's widow did not provide Dotts with the case file until early 2018. Arriola's widow struggled to complete files for this case because Arriola's paralegal, Leo G. Pangelinan, who was also the lead plaintiff in the case, died in December 2017.

Pangelinan worked closely with Arriola and only he knew where all the files were located. Super Typhoon Yutu hit Saipan in October 2018, and further delayed Dotts' progress in the case.

In March and April 2019, two attorneys filed appearances as plaintiffs' counsel. William R. Satterberg filed his appearance for one named and three unnamed plaintiffs.

Matthew T. Gregory filed his appearance for the plaintiffs generally, bearing a caption with the original plaintiffs.

On April 8, 2019, plaintiffs filed a motion for a status conference, requesting that the court evaluate the case for mediation and set a trial date.

In response, defendants filed the current motions asking the court to dismiss the case for failure to prosecute.

Defendants argue that plaintiffs unreasonably delayed the case because they failed to pursue the case meaningfully since the remand.

Defendants claim that because plaintiffs' new counsel could have intervened at any time and because they filed only a motion for a status conference, they failed to "press" the case.

In the order Monday denying the motion to dismiss, Govendo said whether counsel could have intervened at

any time is immaterial.

Govendo said he does not speculate about the actions plaintiffs could have taken to advance the case; rather, he must determine whether plaintiffs' actions were reasonable and whether they prejudiced the defense.

Govendo said plaintiffs' motion for a status conference suggests they are ready to pursue the matter: They want the court to assess the case for mediation and to set a trial date.

Notably, Govendo said, plaintiffs filed their motion within a month of counsel's entering their appearances and before defendants filed these motions to dismiss.

Plaintiffs attribute the delay to Quichocho's disbarment in 2014, appearances of new counsel in 2015, counsel's subsequent withdrawal and deaths in 2017, and a typhoon in 2018.

Although plaintiffs' filings are minimal, Dotts explained during oral arguments and in his declaration that plaintiffs' counsel have been working

to finance the case, to find experts, and to obtain discovery.

Govendo said defendants fail to show they suffered actual prejudice because their concerns are speculative.

Govendo said the defendants are concerned that documents and witnesses will be hard to locate even though they have known about this case since 2009.

The judge said the defendants are in the best position to safeguard the documents necessary to disprove the plaintiffs' allegations.

Moreover, Govendo said, defendants' concerns about class members' ability to prove their gasoline purchases before 2009 is a matter for plaintiffs to overcome.

Nevertheless, he said, these concerns are speculative because it also follows that defendants can easily locate the documents and the witnesses.

Given these circumstances, Govendo said, he finds that, although the case has been ongoing since 2009, the delay is not unreasonable.

TORRES

From Page 1

isolation appropriating to the CNMI government's a total of \$148.89 million for their annual budget.

He said he will be meeting with the OAG sometime this week to go over the spending plan and he is "very optimistic" in approving it. "I know there are some issues raised, but this is part of the [budget] process," he said. "We are going to look into [the budget bill's] first quarter [of the fiscal

year 2020] and go from there."

He assured that the central government is monitoring its financial state and the CNMI's overall revenue that comes in weekly.

When asked if his office has a timeline on the budget bill's enactment, he assured that if there are no issues after the OAG's review, then it would definitely be signed before Sept. 30, 2019.

"The earlier, the better," he added.

Failure to enact a budget before the start of fiscal year 2020 on Oct. 1, 2019, would result in a partial CNMI gov-

ernment shutdown until a budget is enacted.

Rep. Ivan A. Blanco's (R-Saipan) House Bill 21-64, or the fiscal year 2020 budget bill, is the first bill since 2009 to have skipped the conference committee altogether. It is expected that the fiscal year 2020 would be starting without austerity measures and comes with additional monthly and quarterly reports from the Department of Finance to the Legislature for monitoring of the CNMI's finances.

The Department of Finance secretary is required to com-

pare between the CNMI's projected revenue and actual revenue and the projected expenditures and actual expenditures monthly, while also reporting all funds transferred out each quarter.

The new reporting requirements are Senate amendments inserted by Sen. Sixto Igisomar (R-Saipan) in a previous Senate session.

The House accepted the Senate changes on Sept. 6, 2019, with a vote of 14-2. Reps. Edwin K. Propst (Ind-Saipan) and Tina Sablan (Ind-Saipan) voted against it.

(Ind-Saipan), who pointed out that it was "rare" to see both the majority and minority agreeing with each other.

"...I want to thank the members...for the changes made on this bill to safeguard the people," Propst said, referring to Blanco's substitute legislation that was also unanimously carried. "This is a true product of bipartisanship and us working together and communicating effectively. ...My conscience is clear and I can vote yes on it now."

"It is so rare that we can all say that we are in agreement with the majority and the administration...but we do appreciate the leadership...and all of our colleagues in this body on considering and accepting more stringent reporting requirements," Sablan noted.

The bill now goes to the Senate for adoption.

COP

From Page 1

ment, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho sentenced Taisacan to the maximum one-year imprisonment, the first seven days to be served day for day. The remaining 358 days of the sentence is suspended. Camacho said the suspended portion of the sentence may be imposed in whole or in part if Taisacan violates any law or Office of Adult Probation rules.

Upon release from the Department of Corrections, Taisacan will be placed under one year of supervised probation. He will be required to report to the Office of Adult Probation within 24 hours of being released.

The police officer was ordered to pay a \$500 fine, \$25 in court costs, and \$120 in probation fee. The fines he may convert to community service.

Taisacan was ordered to pay \$2.45 in restitution to Delta Management, which operates the Shell gas station in Susupe, for the Starbucks drink that was never recovered.

Taisacan was ordered to complete 100 hours of community service. He is prohibited from having any contact and to stay away from the Shell station in Susupe during his probation.

After the hearing, Camacho ordered the court marshals to take the police officer into custody so he could start serving his sentence at once.

If Taisacan had gone to trial and were convicted of theft, he faced a possible maximum sentence of one-year imprisonment.

Camacho noted that Tai-

sacan has no prior conviction.

Taisacan waived the presentence investigation report. Joey P. San Nicolas, the court-appointed counsel of Taisacan, addressed the court.

Jim Arenovski, owner of Delta who was present in court and given an opportunity to address the court, chose not to do so.

According to the plea deal, Taisacan was on duty as a police officer when he stole four candy bars and a Starbucks drink with a total value of less than \$250 from the Shell gas station in Susupe.

Assistant attorney general Jonathan Robert Glass Jr. appeared as counsel for the government.

Last Monday, Camacho rejected the first plea deal proposed for Taisacan as too lenient, having no jail term and other deterrent terms.

In rejecting it, Camacho said that the people of the CNMI deserve to expect more from their law enforcement officers. The judge added that there can be no justice without the appropriate punishment.

In the bench trial that ensued, the government's first witness was the Shell gas station's manager, who testified that he viewed the video of the incident.

The court admitted three exhibits, including the video showing Taisacan pulling up with a Department of Public Safety car to get gas, paid by a government fleet card.

Taisacan was seen in the video pocketing candies and a drink.

While the manager was still on the witness stand, Camacho ordered a lunch break.

When trial resumed in the afternoon, the prosecution and the defense counsel came up with a second plea agreement.

HOUSE

From Page 1

in the first place.

With a vote of 16-0, the House unanimously agreed yesterday to reallocate the \$15.5 million that Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC paid to renew its casino license fee.

As outlined in Rep. Ivan A. Blanco's (R-Saipan) House Bill 21-78, HS1, the money would be divided among the following: \$1 million each to the Rota Legislative Delegation and Tinian and Aguiguan Legislative Delegation; \$3 million to the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation; \$1 million to the NMI Settlement Fund; \$3 million to the Public School System; \$1 million to the Northern Marianas College; \$500,000 to the Common-

wealth Health Care Corp.; \$1 million to the Marianas Visitors Authority; and the remaining \$4 million for outstanding vendor payments incurred following Super Typhoon Yutu.

The bill would require the Finance secretary to submit to legislative officers a "detailed expenditure report" on the allocation of funds within 30 days of any distribution. The report shall include the dates of payment, the agencies or vendors paid to each agency or vendor, and the balances still owed, if any, to each agency of vendor.

Further, the legislation, if enacted, will mandate the Finance secretary to certify to the Legislature the availability of any additional collections above projected resources for fiscal year 2020 or other funds in the future to satisfy the mandate of Public Law 20-10.

Cannabis Commission is complete

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Cannabis Commission, which is tasked with coming up with the rules

to regulate cannabis as an industry, is now complete.

The commission, a five-man regulatory body, consists of Saipan representatives Matt Deleon Guerrero, Nadine De-

leon Guerrero, and Valentino Taisakan, Rota representative Thomas Songsong, and recently announced Tinian representative Journie Hofschneider.

All commissioners would be sworn in tomorrow, according to Gov. Ralph DLG Torres in a statement yesterday.

"I asked them to do their first official meeting to [designate] their officers. As soon as they do that, they are up and running," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Torres noted during the signing of the cannabis bill amendment, now known as Public Law 21-5, that the 180

days provided to the commission to come up with the regulations would start when they meet for the first time as commissioners.

Even with the six months, Torres is expecting a rough draft in the "next couple of weeks."

"I ask the [commissioners] to work really hard in first addressing residential permits, commercial permits, and then the medicinal permits. I don't

want the three licenses or permits to halt the process, so whichever is easier to push out, then push [it] out," he noted. "If they need to piecemeal the permits, then let's do that and let the cannabis issue and activities go on."

Just yesterday, it was learned from Tinian Mayor Edwin Aldan that he and the Tinian Municipal Council just concluded hearings for Hofschneider's appointment.

Keeping the culture alive at the mini-expo



Master carver Adrian Jose Castro use coconuts that fall from trees to create sculptural pieces.

IVA MAURIN

By **IVA MAURIN**
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

What started as a school project has become one Chamorro artist's way of rediscovering an indigenous art—coconut carving.

Adrian Jose Castro is one of the Chamorro artists featured at the Indigenous Affairs Office's mini-cultural expo last Saturday at the IAO office in Garapan.

"My daughter had a school project, she wanted to paint something on the coconut, and I carved it," Castro said. "Now I am teaching my brother, who actually can carve pretty good, after I draw the design."

This passing of tradition is exactly what the expo is all about—to preserve the Cham-

orro culture by providing avenues for the community to learn about and experience it.

Donovan Tudela, a Saipan Southern High School teacher who attended the mini-expo, said that it is very important that the younger generation expose themselves to these traditional practices.

"All of these traditional practices, especially the traditional medicine, making traditional food, might diminish within years from now, and events such as this is very enlightening," Tudela said.

"Until you come to events like this, that's only when you find out how beautiful and how interesting you could become," he added. "It is time for the younger generation to get up and inquire and build

the curiosity to want to learn these things [so we can continue these traditions]."

Aside from Castro, IAO's mini-cultural expo also featured healer Rosa Salalila and cook Gloria Reyes who demonstrated how to prepare traditional medicine and local food, respectively.

Expo participants enjoyed generous servings of the detox and energy-producing juices Salalila prepared out of leaves, as well as the "ahu" (soup made with young coconut) and empanadas.

The IAO will be holding the mini-expo weekly, featuring arts and crafts, local food and medicine, and great local music, in preparation for the Indigenous Culture Expo in October.

International Festival of Cultures

SEPT. 20 - 21, 2019 • 5:00 P.M. - 10:00 P.M.
PASEO DE MARIANAS, GARAPAN

Enjoy two nights filled with cultural performances, ethnic foods, cultural demonstrations, arts and crafts, and more!

SEPT. 20, 2019 • Starts at 5:00 P.M.
Parade of Cultures and Ethnic Costume Fashion Show
(Carolinian Affairs Office along Beach Road to Paseo de Marianas)

COTA will be providing shuttle services from the American Memorial Park Parking Lot to the event site and back.

+1.670.664.3200 info@mymarianas.com www.mymarianas.com @MyMarianas @TheMarianas

KINPACHI Japanese Restaurant

Happy Hour @ Barefoot Beach Bar

BARAHA BAND
This Thursday from 7:30pm~10:00pm

REVIVE BAND
Every Saturday from 7:30pm-10:00pm

Due to a private function on FRIDAY SEPT 13th, Happy Hour at the Barefoot Beach Bar will be this THURSDAY and SATURDAY from 5pm to 10pm. Live music from 7:30 with food and drink specials starting at 5pm. **See you there!!!**

Kanoa Resort
Saipan
Leisure · Comfort · Kanoa ·

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For more information, please call (670) 237-8742 /43

Da'ok Academy expects 23 students to graduate

By **MARC A. VENUS**
marc_venus@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Da'ok Academy is expecting 23 students to complete all the required credits by the end of this school year.

In an interview with newly-appointed principal Jonathan Aguon, he and his staff have identified a total of 23 students who will complete their required courses per the Public School Systems' curriculum.

Of the 23 students, some are returning students to the academy and the rest are those

who've decided to transfer. He expects this year's graduation numbers to be higher than last school year's 14 graduates.

Aguon said his goal as a principal is to remove all the stigma and public misconceptions behind the academy, since the academy was formed from the previously incorporated Alternative Education program.

Aguon said the most common misconception about the Da'ok Academy is that it serves as a "dumping group for juvenile students." He be-

lieves that the academy is for students who need a learning environment that is different from a traditional classroom setting in order to succeed academically and become productive citizens.

When asked about the difference that the academy provides, he said that each class has a total of 10 students, and that with this setting, instructors can give each student the sufficient amount of time needed, compared to the usual 25 to 30 students in a regular classroom.

Another advantage the academy provides is the partnership between them and the Northern Marianas Technical Institute. Aguon said that about 16 students are currently taking classes with NMTI and he commends the opportunities that the students are checking to see whether they should have sought collegiate careers or joined the trades industry.

Aguon added that they work closely with agencies such as the Garrett Lee Smith Youth Suicide Prevention Program

and the Community Guidance Center for providing mental health awareness, as this is also an important aspect in building better citizens for the future. He said they have an assigned counselor for the academy to also provide intervention for the students, if needed.

There is also a misconception that the Da'ok Academy only provides general education diplomas. He said the academy is accredited under PSS and all the diplomas that the students will receive after completing classes are exactly the same as those who graduate from any PSS high school.

He said that each student is required to complete the graduation requirements, which is to complete a total of 28 credits.

Aguon said that Da'ok Academy has 42 students enrolled this school year, and has five teaching staff members. Da'ok Academy is supported through a federal grant program that promotes and develops students' reading and math skills.

He said the usual process of students transitioning to the academy would be that the respective PSS high schools would transfer the student or if the student requests to be transferred to the academy.



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality
Division of Coastal Resources Management
P.O. Box 501304, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315
www.dcrm.gov.mp



Public Notice

Formal Evaluation of CNMI Coastal Management Program

Section 312 of the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) of 1972, as amended, requires the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Office for Coastal Management (OCM) to continually review and evaluate all state and territory Coastal Management Programs. Accordingly, OCM will conduct an evaluation of the operation and management of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Coastal Management Program (CMP), implemented through the Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM), covering the period from September 2014 to October 2019. As part of this process, OCM will conduct a site visit from October 14-18, 2019.

The CZMA also requires that a public meeting be held during the evaluation to provide an opportunity for public comments regarding the operation and implementation of the federally approved CNMI CMP. This meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 16, 2019 at the American Memorial Park Visitor Center's Theater, Micro Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950, CNMI at 5PM. Written comments are encouraged and participation at the public meeting is not required for submission. Written comments may be forwarded to Ralph Cantral, Senior Advisor, NOAA Office for Coastal Management, 2234 South Hobson Avenue, Charleston, South Carolina, 29405-2413 or via email to Ralph.Cantral@noaa.gov no later than October 25, 2019.

For more information, please contact DCRM at (670) 664-8300.



PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP NO.: DPW/SWMD19-RFP-005

SUBMISSION DATE: October 16, 2019 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"MARPI LANDFILL OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

A PRE-PROPOSAL SITE VISIT WILL BE HELD ON **September 30, 2019 AT 9:00 A.M., LOCAL TIME** AT THE FRONT ENTRANCE OF THE Marpi Landfill WALK THROUGH.


QUESTIONS MUST BE MADE IN WRITING TO Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division **NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS October 10, 2019**. THESE QUESTIONS WILL BE ANSWERED WITHIN THREE (3) BUSINESS DAYS AND WILL BE SHARED WITH ALL PROPOSERS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.


THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/s/ JAMES A. ADA
SECRETARY OF PUBLIC WORKS

/s/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S



PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT



REQUEST OF PROPOSALS
RFP NO.: RFP19-BECQ/DCRM-127

SUBMISSION DATE: OCTOBER 04, 2019 TIME: 09:00 A.M.

"PHASE 1: COMPREHENSIVE DESIGN FOR JEFFREYS BEACH BOARDWALK PROJECT FOR THE BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENTAL COASTAL QUALITY, DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

ALL QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP **MUST** BE SUBMITTED VIA-EMAIL TO **MR. RICH SALAS** BY EMAIL AT rsalas@dcrm.gov.mp, **NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS September 23, 2019**. RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS SHALL BE SHARED WITH ALL PERSPECTIVE PROPOSERS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/s/ ELI D. CABRERA
ADMINISTRATOR, BECQ

/s/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for
Joy Lee Corporation dba Green Consume Market

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Joy Lee Corporation dba Green Consume Market is proposing to construct a structure for warehouse. This use is classified as "Warehousing & General Wholesaling" and is permitted in the district as Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. EA 225-NEW-1 in As Lito. This area is zoned as Village Commercial.

A public hearing will be held on:

Date: Wednesday, September 25, 2019
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-purpose Center, Susupe

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 3:00 pm, September 24, 2019. Please send written comments via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Mariano Taitano, Chairman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for
RJCL Corporation dba RNV Construction

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. RJCL Corporation dba RNV Construction is proposing to construct three (3) additional one-storey structures for 30 additional beds for staff housing. This use is classified as "Institutional Residential" and is permitted in the district as Conditional Use. This project is located on E.A. 109 NEW-1 in Chalan Kiya. This area is zoned as Village Residential.

A public hearing will be held on:

Date: Wednesday, September 25, 2019
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-purpose Center, Susupe

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 3:00 pm, September 24, 2019. Please send written comments via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Mariano Taitano, Chairman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for
SKT Company Limited

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. SKT Company Limited is proposing to occupy an existing duplex structure with (3) bedrooms per unit to operate a bed & breakfast establishment. This use is classified as "Bed & Breakfast" and is permitted in the district as Conditional Use. This project is located on Lots No. 1742 NEW-11 & 1742 NEW-10 in Chalan Kiya. This area is zoned as Village Residential.

A public hearing will be held on:

Date: Wednesday, September 25, 2019
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-purpose Center, Susupe

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 3:00 pm, September 24, 2019. Please send written comments via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Mariano Taitano, Chairman

Atalig, girlfriend hire ex-FBI agent as private investigator

Rota Mayor Efraim M. Atalig and his girlfriend, Evelyn Atalig, hired last Wednesday a former Federal Bureau of Investigation special agent to serve as their private investigator in the corruption charges filed against them.

David G. Banes and Steven P. Pixley, counsels for Efraim Atalig and Evelyn Atalig, re-

spectively, informed the U.S. District Court for the NMI during a motion hearing last Friday that they were able to hire former FBI special agent Jay Wolfe as their investigator.

Banes and Pixley disclosed the hiring of Wolfe in their request for the postponement of trial and pre-trial deadlines.

Banes said former Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services commissioner Claudio K. Norita, who was first hired as the Ataligs' private investigator, could not continue with the investigation due to conflict of interest.

» **Jury trial
reset to Jan.
8, 2020**

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona approved postponing the trial to Jan. 8, 2020. The trial was previously set for Oct. 1, 2019.

Manglona noted the lack of a private investigator, and the defense counsel's due dili-

gence in looking for one.

Assistant U.S. attorney Eric O'Malley appeared on behalf of the U.S. government at the hearing. The Ataligs appeared telephonically from Rota.

Banes and Pixley earlier disclosed that Norita had informed them that he had been advised by his attorney that he could

no longer do outside work because of his employment by the CNMI government.

Norita asked to be let go from the case as his company, Trublu Resources, was recently appointed by the CNMI government to provide census services of housing units on island.

Banes and Pixley said that, because of this, they and their clients needed more time to find a new private investigator and allow the new private investigator to do the investigation, including interviewing potential witnesses.

They said the Ataligs jointly agreed to hire Norita as their private investigator last May 22, 2019.

Norita is a former commissioner of the Department of Public Safety.

The charges against the Ataligs now involve at least eight trips taken by the Ataligs at different times in 2018 to Guam, Palau, the U.S. mainland, South Korea, and Saipan.

The Ataligs are being charged jointly with wire fraud, theft concerning programs receiving federal funds, and conspiracy to commit wire fraud and federal funds theft. Each of them faces a separate charge of false statement.

The defendants have pleaded not guilty. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

Kamata: Cleaning Paseo means we care

For PDM Promoters, Inc. director Misako Kamata, the non-profit organization's continued cleanup of Paseo de Marianas simply means the group cares about the area.

"A clean environment is not just a pretty sight, it is a sign that our community cares," she said shortly after 38 volunteers of PDM Promoters cleaned the area last Saturday.

Last weekend's cleanup saw 29 members of the Saipan Awaodori Team and nine staff from Kinpachi Restaurant take part in the endeavor that netted 440 lbs of trash.

Kamata, who is also the owner of Kinpachi Restaurant, said the cleanup is also a learning experience for the youth. "It's a great start to learn community responsibility and more likely they will continue doing this as adults," she said.

The two-hour cleanup of

Paseo de Marianas, Coral Tree Avenue, American Memorial Park road, and Beach Road and its connecting alleyways saw the group pick up everything from used water bottles, to soda cans, beer cans, food wrappers, and other trash.

The volunteers also kept themselves busy sweeping cigarette butts as well as bush-cutting and plant-trimming along Paseo de Marianas.

Like previous monthly cleanups, the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality helped by waiving the fee for trash disposal.

PDM Promoters' monthly cleanups are held every Saturday and are supported by BECQ and the non-profit's major sponsors, T-Galleria and TSL Foundation.

T-Galleria and TSL Foundation's support enables them to have the cleaning materi-



PDM Promoters, Inc. volunteers from Saipan Awaodori Team and Kinpachi restaurant pose with the 440 lbs of trash they collected last Saturday.

als needed on their monthly cleanups. Kinpachi Restaurant provides the meal and snacks

for the volunteers.

Volunteers of PDM Promoters will be at it again next Oc-

tober when they conduct their 10th monthly cleanup of 2019. (*Saipan Tribune*)



Commonwealth Zoning Board Meeting Agenda Wednesday, September 25, 2019

5:00 PM, Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center, Susupe
Tel: 234-9661 • Fax: 234-9666 • www.zoning.gov.mp

A. Preliminary Matters

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of 08/22/2019 meeting minutes
5. Public Comments (*not related to files for discussion under item B. Public Hearings*)

B. Public Hearings:

1. **Conditional Use Application #2019-2399:** SKT Company Limited is proposing to occupy an existing duplex structure with (3) bedrooms per unit to operate a bed & breakfast establishment. This use is classified as "Bed & Breakfast" and is permitted in the district as Conditional Use. This project is located on Lots No. 1742 NEW-11 & 1742 NEW-10 in Chalan Kiya. This area is zoned as Village Residential.
2. **Conditional Use Application #2019-2711:** P & P Elevator Company is proposing to construct a new structure utilizing 7 (seven) 40' and 1 (one) 20' containers for its Coffee Shop. This use is classified as "Restaurant, General" and is permitted in the district as Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. 058 D 14 in Navy Hill. This area is zoned as Rural.
3. **Conditional Use Application #2019-3066:** 3K Corporation is proposing to occupy an existing 1-storey structure to operate a BBQ stand. This use is classified as "Restaurant-Drive Thru" and is permitted in the district as Conditional Use. This project is located on Lots No. 38-3, 38-4, & 38-5 in Dandan. This area is zoned as Village Commercial.
4. **Conditional Use Application #2019-0770:** Joy Lee Corporation dba Green Consume Market is proposing to construct a structure for warehouse. This use is classified as "Warehousing & General Wholesaling" and is permitted in the district as Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. EA 225-NEW-1 in As Lito. This area is zoned as Village Commercial.
5. **Conditional Use Application #2019-3105** (*Amendment to Conditional Use Application #2018-1998*): RJCL Corporation dba RNV Construction is proposing to construct three (3) additional one-storey structures for 30 additional beds for staff housing. This use is classified as "Institutional Residential" and is permitted in the district as Conditional Use. This project is located on E.A. 109 NEW-1 in Chalan Kiya. This area is zoned as Village Residential.
6. **Conditional Use Application #2019-3115:** Maria Theresa Cruz is proposing to occupy an existing space on the west end of the Dolphin Wholesale building to operate a BBQ stand. This use is classified as "Restaurant, Drive-through" and is permitted in the district as Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. 340 NEW-1 in San Jose. This area is zoned as Village Commercial.
7. **Conditional Use Application #2019-3123:** 153 Corporation is proposing to renovate an existing structure to operate a restaurant. This use is classified as "Restaurant, General" and is permitted in the district as Conditional Use. This project is located on TR 22556-1-R1 in Fina Sis. This area is zoned as Village Commercial.
8. **Conditional Use Application #2019-3512:** Ocean Sports Corporation dba Aqua Dive is proposing to occupy a space within their single family home to operate a dive shop. This use is classified as "Dive Shop" and is permitted in the district as Conditional Use. This project is located on TR 21732-18 in Gualo Rai. This area is zoned as Village Commercial.

C. Communication

D. Old Business

E. New Business

1. Operations Reports (Permitting & Enforcement)

F. Executive (Closed) Session

G. Miscellaneous

- a. Other Matters
- b. Announcements
- c. Next Meeting

H. Adjourn

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the Board meeting, or if you require assistance, please contact the Zoning Administrator, Therese T. Ogumoro, at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & 10 CMC 3511, et seq.).

/s/ Mariano Taitano, Zoning Board Chairman



NORTHERN MARIANAS COALITION
AGAINST DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE
P.O. BOX 506689, SAIPAN, MP 96950
PHONE: 670.234.3878

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT FOR PROGRAM ASSISTANT

Do you believe in ending violence in the CNMI? Are you a self-starting and motivated individual? NMCADSV is looking for a new team member! Read on to find out how you can be part of this amazing movement!

Minimum Qualifications:

- An agreement with NMCADSV's philosophy regarding the elimination of domestic and sexual violence
- High School Diploma or Equivalent
- Experience providing clerical and administrative support
- Demonstrated abilities in verbal and written communication
- Proficiency in MS Word and Excel
- Flexible Schedule (May be occasionally required to work evenings and weekends)
- Must be able to travel within the CNMI and the to the U.S. Mainland

Extra consideration will be given for the following:

- One (1) year documented experience/work with non-profit and/or charitable organizations
- Own transportation with a valid driver's license, insurance and registration

For a full list of duties, please stop by the NMCADSV office or email info@endviolencenmi.org
No phone inquiries, please.

Classification & Salary Range: Full-time, Non-Exempt, 40 hours per week,
\$10.00/hr. ~ \$14.00/hr. (based on experience and qualifications)

Application Deadline and Submission Information:

Resume and Cover Letter should be submitted on or before 5:00 p.m. on
Friday, September 20, 2019.

If submitting certificates and awards, please provide a list only. Late and incomplete submissions will not be considered.

Applications can be submitted via email to info@endviolencenmi.org, delivered to NMCADSV's office (**between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.**) at the Marina Heights I Building, Suite 206, or mailed to NMCADSV, P.O. Box 506689, Saipan, MP 96950. (Mailed applications must be postmarked on or before the deadline.) Applicants who are invited for an interview will be asked to bring a copy of their Diploma(s) or equivalent, Police Clearance, and a list of references.

This project is 100% supported by federal grants, awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice and Grant # G-1801MPSDVC awarded by the Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this release are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the U.S. Department of Justice or the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Alert out for poor visibility

Based on information received from the National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam, and compiled at CNMI Emergency Operations Center-State Warning Point, a doppler radar and IR satellite indicated a large area of heavy showers and isolated thunderstorms building over Saipan and southward toward Tinian. These showers are moving toward the west-northwest at 25 mph. Heavy rain is expected to reduce visibilities

and cause ponding in areas of poor drainage. If these showers persist, an urban and small stream flood advisory may be needed.

Drivers should be alert for ponding, slippery road surfaces and briefly lower visibilities. Seek shelter if you see lightning or hear thunder. Boaters can expect visibility down to half a mile in heavy showers. Go below deck and avoid touching any metal parts if thunderstorms are nearby. **(PR)**

Saipan Tribune Make it your *DAILY* habit.

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for
3K Corporation

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. 3K Corporation is proposing to occupy an existing 1-storey structure to operate a BBQ stand. This use is classified a "Restaurant-Drive Thru" and is permitted in the district as Conditional Use. This project is located on Lots No. 38-3, 38-4, & 38-5 in Dandan. This area is zoned as Village Commercial.

A public hearing will be held on:

Date: Wednesday, September 25, 2019
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Governor Pedro P. Tenorio
Multi-purpose Center, Susupe

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 3:00 pm, September 24, 2019. Please send written comments via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Mariano Taitano, Chairman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for
Maria Theresa Cruz

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Maria Theresa Cruz is proposing to occupy an existing space on the west end of the Dolphin Wholesale building to operate a BBQ stand. This use is classified as "Restaurant, Drive-through" and is permitted in the district as Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. 340 NEW-1 in San Jose. This area is zoned as Village Commercial.

A public hearing will be held on:

Date: Wednesday, September 25, 2019
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Governor Pedro P. Tenorio
Multi-purpose Center, Susupe

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 3:00 pm, September 24, 2019. Please send written comments via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Mariano Taitano, Chairman



NEW MTEC BOARD MEMBER

The Marianas Tourism Education board of directors welcomes new board member and interim Northern Marianas College president Frankie Eliptico, far left, at their meeting on Sept. 5, 2019, at the Marianas Visitors Authority office in San Jose, Saipan. From left, Eliptico, board member Glenn Policare, MTEC chair Vicky Benavente, vice chair Wendi Herring, board treasurer Robert "Ryan" Yulo, and board members Naomi Nishimura and Rose Ada-Hocog. MTEC fosters community understanding and support of the visitor industry; educates the public, especially students, about the value, social benefits, and economic contributions made to the community by the visitor industry; and instills, improves and promotes the *hafa adai-tirow* hospitality spirit throughout the Marianas.

MTEC

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for
153 Corporation

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. 153 Corporation is proposing to renovate an existing structure to operate a restaurant. This use is classified as "Restaurant, General" and is permitted in the district as Conditional Use. This project is located on TR 22556-1-R1 in Fina Sisu. This area is zoned as Village Commercial.

A public hearing will be held on:

Date: Wednesday, September 25, 2019
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Governor Pedro P. Tenorio
Multi-purpose Center, Susupe

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 3:00 pm, September 24, 2019. Please send written comments via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Mariano Taitano, Chairman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for
Ocean Sports Corporation dba Aqua Dive

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Ocean Sports Corporation dba Aqua Dive is proposing to occupy a space within their single family home to operate a dive shop. This use is classified as "Dive Shop" and is permitted in the district as Conditional Use. This project is located on TR 21732-18 in Gualo Rai. This area is zoned as Village Commercial.

A public hearing will be held on:

Date: Wednesday, September 25, 2019
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Governor Pedro P. Tenorio
Multi-purpose Center, Susupe

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 3:00 pm, September 24, 2019. Please send written comments via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Mariano Taitano, Chairman

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB 19-DPS-126-(A) CIF Rota & (B) CIF Tinian
SUBMISSION DATE: SEPTEMBER 16, 2019 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

PURCHASE OF ONE (1) SPORTS UTILITY VEHICLE FOR DPS-ROTA BRANCH (A) AND ONE (1) SPORTS UTILITY VEHICLE FOR DPS-TINIAN BRANCH (B) UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY-Saipan

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ROBERT A. GUERRERO
COMMISSIONER, DPS

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB 19-ZB-134
SUBMISSION DATE: OCTOBER 15, 2019 TIME: 09:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF ONE (1) CLASS "F" PICK-UP TRUCK FOR THE COMMONWEALTH ZONING BOARD OFFICE"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ MARIANO TAITANO
CHAIRMAN, CNMI ZONING BOARD

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for
P & P Elevator Company

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. P & P Elevator Company is proposing to construct a new structure utilizing 7 (seven) 40' and 1 (one) 20' containers for its Coffee Shop. This use is classified as "Restaurant, General" and is permitted in the district as Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. 058 D 14 in Navy Hill. This area is zoned as Rural.

A public hearing will be held on:

Date: Wednesday, September 25, 2019
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Governor Pedro P. Tenorio
Multi-purpose Center, Susupe

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 3:00 pm, September 24, 2019. Please send written comments via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Mariano Taitano, Chairman

Field of Heroes Sponsors



From left, TanHoldings Corporate Affairs Community Relations director Carline Sablan, American Memorial Park superintendent Barbara Alberti, park ranger Brooke Nevitt, and Tan Siu Lin Foundation's Mel Naputi and Raymond Zapanta pose for a photo after the National Park Service was named field sponsor of We Will Never Forget: Field of Heroes, a 9/11 commemoration.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



JC Tenorio Enterprises, Inc. vice president Clarence T. Tenorio, seated left, holds the heritage sponsor sign with TanHoldings vice president for Corporate Affairs/HR Catherine Attao-Toves during the donation presentation attended by other JC Tenorio officials.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



IT&E Customer Operations executive director Rob Harrell, left, presents the ceremonial check donation to organizers of the We Will Never Forget: Field of Heroes.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Bank of Guam vice president/branch manager Larry Phillip, fifth left, hands over the check donation to TanHoldings vice president for corporate affairs/HR Catherine Attao-Toves, fourth left.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Bank of Hawaii Saipan branch Rose Sumors presents the ceremonial check donation to We Will Never Forget: Field of Heroes organizers.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



T Galleria/DFS Saipan management and staff are presented with the Star and Stripes sponsorship sash.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang, center, receives the Star and Stripes sponsorship sash.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Hyatt Regency Saipan general manager Nick Nishikawa, second left front row, and his staff are presented with the Star and Stripes sponsorship sash.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Opinion

Hafa Adair!

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Long road to Afghan peace



Donald Trump was going for a long shot (his specialty)—face-to-face Taliban talks to end the Afghan War that began 18 years ago next month, weeks after 9/11. It didn't happen. But he wasn't wrong to try.

Direct negotiations with the Taliban and the Afghan government have been going on for some time—U.S. envoy Zalmay Khalilzad has just finished the ninth round of discussions. Perhaps the Camp David summit (even horribly timed with the 9/11 anniversary) was to get a final agreement signed.

That Trump prizes his self-perceived skill as the ultimate deal closer isn't novel. He has attempted it with North Korea on their weapons programs and China on their trade policy, both without success, and is open to other one-on-ones. If it ever works, he'd be deserving of the Nobel.

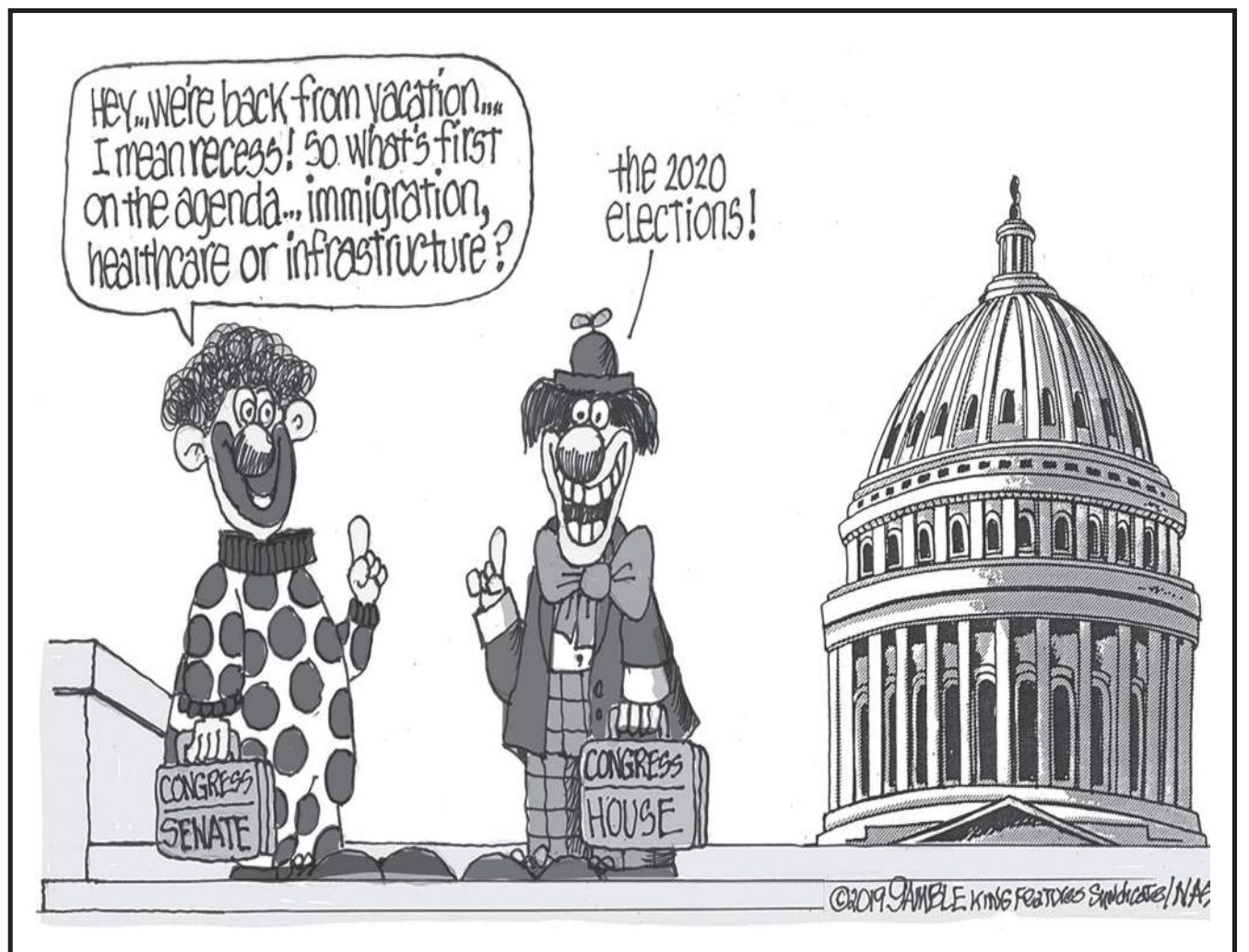
Taking such big risks is his style. It allowed him to astoundingly win the White House. However the high chance of failure is exactly why others don't try such gambits.

The president's surprising Saturday night tweets canceling the parley blamed the Taliban for the death of Sgt. 1st Class Elis Barreto Ortiz. The 82nd Airborne paratrooper was killed Thursday in Kabul, along with 11 others in a Taliban IED attack. His death is mourned by the nation, but his sacrifice and that of thousands of other Americans in this war must not end the search for peace that will bring our troops home, leave the government of Afghanistan President Ashraf Ghani secure and prevent the rise of any international terror threat.

The 14,000 U.S. troops in Afghanistan, augmented by our NATO allies, serving in Operation Freedom's Sentinel cannot depart the country without a peace plan. The conflict in Afghanistan, initially called Operation Enduring Freedom, was a just war, brought on by the Taliban's alliance with Al Qaeda.

Eighteen years ago Americans didn't know or care about Afghanistan, as Osama Bin Laden planned his evil plot there. We have learned with blood, on the streets of New York and in the Afghan mountains, that what happens there does matter a great deal.

(c) 2019 New York Daily News



Who won the week? Me, because I stopped watching cable news

I was slogging through my Saturday workout at the gym trying to balance and read a book on the elliptical while ignoring the three muted television sets on the wall. The gym's owner usually starts the day with Fox News on the right, MSNBC on the left and HGTV in the middle. Democracy on full display.

When I glanced at MSNBC, the crawler read, "Who won the week?" It happened to be Joy Reid's show, but it could have been any number of shows on any cable news network.

Gathered around her were a cluster of serious "experts and analysts" to break down the past five days for us proles living outside the East Coast babble beltway.

Did President Donald Trump win the week? Or did Nancy Pelosi? The suits were ready with answers—answers that mattered, most of all, well, to them.

Despite occasional forays to the Heartland, the insiders inside the echo chamber that is Washington have no earthly idea what happens west (or north or south) of the Potomac River—you know, that mysterious flyover country that tricked them in 2016.

Instead, much like our current president, they are consumed by their image, their current Q ratings and their next book deal.

Out here among the corn and soybean fields of the Midwest I have never heard anyone wonder which pol won the week. At my local gym, we avoid politics. It's divisive and, besides, we are trying not to trigger atrial fibrillation. Now, if you want to talk about the fortunes of the Cubs and Cardinals, or who is on chemo, or whose parents just died, I can guarantee you a reality-based conversation.

Cable news sent me packing just after the release of the Mueller report. Up until then I was a devoted viewer of CNN and MSNBC. At 5 p.m. I would tune in to Wolf Blitzer as he announced (without a trace of emotion), "Happening now! Breaking news!" Then, in between the geezer ads, a parade of attractive correspondents and former this and that would breathlessly announce how multiple, unnamed sources had just revealed that Mueller had unearthed something horrendous and impeachable. Wow! This was going to be as big as Stormy Daniels' bust!

And most of the time it was a bust.

At 6 p.m. I would switch to MSNBC's overly caffeinated Chris Matthews who, in between interrupting his guests, would follow the same playbook as CNN. Breaking news! Panel of well-connected (and well-fed) journalists! Somebody somewhere had something juicy and that something wasn't looking good for that someone named Trump.

As someone who despises Trump, I was "all in" on every

By STEPHEN J. LYONS
Chicago Tribune

Stephen J. Lyons is the author of four books of essays and journalism. His most recent book is Going Driftless: Life Lessons from the Heartland for Unraveling Times.



twitch of special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation. I thought the report would finally nail the oafish billionaire. The scoundrel would finally be disgraced on prime time.

Well, we know what happened with the release of the report. Nothing.

So I tuned out the chatter and my mental state has vastly improved. Now 5 p.m. is wine hour. If the humidity is decent and the mosquitoes have eaten their fill, my wife and I will sit out on our modest patio and listen to the cicadas, tree frogs and birdsong.

(Apparently I am not alone. Adweek Network's TVNewser reported on July 30 that all three cable news channels were down 22% for prime time from the same date a year ago.)

So what have I missed on cable news besides countless mesothelioma and dubious medical cure-all commercials?

The House committees' infinite subpoenas are DOA. Trump continues to raise his tiny middle finger to established standards of decency and to our Constitution. Michael Avenatti is MIA. Stormy might be dancing in the Quad Cities. Kellyanne is somehow still married.

Blitzer remains robotic. Matthews still shouts over his guests. Maddow is all smirk and snark. Hannity, Dobbs and Carlson continue to fill in nicely for the Three Stooges.

Perhaps by now you are wondering what does "winning the week" mean for this Midwesterner? Well, it means my 96-year-old mother-in-law makes it to the weekend without a nasty fall. Winning the week is trying to find a creative way to pay off mounting medical bills and, on a related topic, praying that my wife and I have enough money to live out the last third of our lives. Not being gunned down in a mass shooting always counts as a win.

And, if I can make it through the week without hearing or seeing the current leader of his own freak world, then I have truly won the week.

Finapus Ha`ane

Bes enkuando, hu pega talañgahu gi tanu` umekuñgug haf` guaha gi oriyata. `An taya` sustansiau `sino piligro-su na asuntu hu tutuhun umatan i gaseta siha gi Internet. Hu taitai pot maribahan ekonomia ni rumibaha lokue` \$19 miyon na fondun ginen kahan iya Marianas. Indika-sion na taya` nuebu na hinalum bisnis. Mafattu tiempun kayada `nai dumeskansa gi fina` yanu.

Fuetsau debi u guaha inadahe gi dididi` na fundo-ta. Mauleg maprebeniye sisteman hinemlu` yan edukasion pot este i dos mas impottante ni megai ha embrasa na tautau.

Komprendiyun i guaha `nai lagse` `sino muñeru hinalum fondu gi hinalum Septiembre, tutuhun nuebu na sakan moneda (fiscal year).

Planu

Lokue`, hu ekuñgug ñaihon haf` na planu guaha para uma-adel-anta kinalamten ekonomian i tanu`. Ansianu na diniseha pot no u gacha` hit induktu. Ti namannman na sessu i Boysis manlosus gi mañgun kareta.

Dispues de hu mente dos-tres biahe, ilegña si Magu na baina` pasensiayu` sa` machochogue i planu ya siempre umapresenta publikamente. Hu abisa na umana` lachadeg antes de u lachaiyu` i edut atiluñg fuma` `anpoduñg rusketi.

Kanta

Estaba gi fihonhu i lahihu bisnietu sige ha rasgueo dandaña uku-lele. Sige kumanta man-bonitu na tunada. Hu ekuñgug ñaihon dispues humame.


Hu tutuhun fumanague man-lamaput siha na yaben gitala.

New Hopwood Field of Dreams

LITERARY NOOK

By **JOEY ‘PEPE BATBON’ CONNOLLY**
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Joey “Pepe Batbon” Connolly is a retired teacher and has been named a poet laureate of Tinian. He has taught English in CNMI public schools for the past 30 years. He has also taught in Alaska, New Orleans, and Las Vegas.



Did you read the letter titled “Hopwood Collapse Final Perhaps” in last Friday’s copy of the Saipan Tribune? Find it online on their Opinion page. Here is a poem pondering the practicality facing reality, being a spontaneous freestyle sonnet rap on that letter which listed some reasons why HJHS or Hopwood Middle School should be built elsewhere: Do you recall the line, “If you build it they will come” from *Field of Dreams* (the 1989 movie)?

Hopwood Mishaps Final Perhaps

It means a lot to me
si Joey Connolly
unfortunately others
don’t want to see
Hopwood free
of imprisonment
by beach and sea.
my concerned thought
might not be bought
perhaps attention
will be caught
by some in power
new insight sought
benevolent bower
new site for school bell
time and money will tell.

What do you think?
new location site?
is the idea good?
or does it stink?
does it seem right?
for the neighborhood?
put it down in ink!
join the fight!
get understood!

Hineñgañg haf` tiniñgo`hu dispues `nai hu sañgane na hagas dan-deru si bihuña. Hu pasensiaye pot dañkulu interesña manuñgu`.

Sustansian kanta ginen sentimentu yan linala` tautau maseha manu. Gaige i asuntu gi bonitu na sunidu ni ta kakanta dispues.

Etupag

Estaba un` amku` ume`etupag gi tasin Lali Fo`. Huli`e na esta lamegai kinine`ña ni ha pega gi alan guihan. Achog kumuentus ti hinalulula. `An ha katnadaye i hagueta, dispuasiu yan seguru.

Un` okasion `nai hu tuñgu` dispues haf` offisioña deste finag-pu` gera. Mauleg na katpenteru ya huli`e macho`chu`. Chadeg gi usun chachag yan ramentan katpenteria. Hana`eyu` kelaguenhu` i amku` dispues `nai umadespidi ham.

Dos benefisiu umetupag: guaha tiempu man-hassu asuntu siha yan umatan haf masusede. Un` analisa i asuntu gi mas katma na attura. Agradesiyun.

Bisita

Potlumenus un` biahe gi sakan hu bisita yan rikonosen ñaihon-yu` gi karerahu. Hu usune meditasion `nai hu rikonose linala` espirituat. Sumen presisu na añkla gi ha`anita.

Ti maput: po`lu na humanau hau para un` gatbun hatdin gi mapagahes. Siempre un` soda` presente i Saina`nai guaha kam-pu para in` adiñgan gi hechuran tinayuyotmu.

Este na eksisiu ha rinueba sensian esperansa gi ha`anita ya mas hana`e hit ansia gi bandan inadahe gi halum taduñg na kañadan linala`. Todu i tiempu gaige fitme añklan ha`animu gi Saina.

Iran Pagyu

Kase in` li`e destrosiun pagyu giya Bahamas gi mapus na se-mana. Tat tiha destrosia gi gima` tautau siha. Mauleg sa` guaha ayudu ginen hiyuñg. Lau tinaka` tiempu estake u na`lu tatte otdi-nariu na linala` i los probes.

Guaha man-dimalas guihe na mattiru. Inipus na uchan poduñg pot kanaha` 38 oras sumaga ayu na pagyu gi hilu` iya Bahamas. Dispues `nai sige hulu` entalu Florida yan iya Carolinas. Mauleg na destrosiu fumatoigue ginen mañglu` yan uchan.

Linau

Gaige gaseta lokue` na linau giya Indonesia kontodu bisinuña siha. Ti humalum destrosiau na napu. Lau man-sinapet `nos kuantus familia pot manyinamag gima` niha. Guaha `nai ta si-

By **JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.**
Special to the Saipan Tribune



John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/ her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.

ente linau ya puede ti u fatoigue hit i dañkulu.

I asuntu ni umestototba-yu` i gaige filan petlas Marianas gi mas taduñg na tasi. Guaha na patte esta 36 miyas papa`. Gaige i mas taduñg gi lichan iya Guahan. Puede ti patte este siha na mantaduñg tasi gi fina` linau.

Dibina

Hu tuñgu` na guaha mina gi oriyen tasin Marianas. Haf` ennau siha na mina ti klaru. Lau kontra i masguaguan na klasen lulug. Yangin ha interes iya China este na mina haye para u rinikohe apas fondu, Marianas pat i federat? Un` asuntu ni kulan ta yotte gi un` banda lau debi ta prekura para `an u fattu makusechan mina.

Gai buruka i asuntu `an ilegta iyota pot rason na ni unu gi estadu `sino otru territory dueñu ni mina gi oriyen niha. Hum-alum dispues `nos kuantos ahensian federat ya siha dumispone. Mauleg para ta upus un` asuntu `nai gaige riku` na mina siha?

Masusede este giya Hawaii `nai humalum un` kompania mañgusecha fina` mina. I federat dumispone deste lisensia yan rinikohen fondu. Mauleg ta repasa i asuntu pot interes Marianas. Sopbla justifikasion na debi hita ta dispone minan tano`ta.

Adelantu

Gi halum chinatsaga man-mamatkilu tautau-ta siha kulan man-ekuñgug haf` guaha na planu pot adelantun monedan familia ginen manma-elihe. Kulan man-udu i boysis.

Kase guaha 15-mit na empleau man-mamatmus gi papa` suet-dun popble ni inipus tagpapa`. Gi mismu tiempu taya` alibi u fuera de u fanalag hilu` gi hegsu` I Deni` man-ñgaha` ausiliu.

Yangin guaha planun miyu mauleg in` dañe` tautau-ta umesplika haf` gaige gi hinassun miyu.

Ebola is raging again—and the US is not ready

By **JOE LIEBERMAN** and **TOM RIDGE**
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Five years ago, the Ebola virus broke through inadequate public health systems in West Africa and spread throughout the world. America was lucky. Only a few cases traveled here, but the U.S. government also did not respond as we had reason to expect.

Despite assurances that our country would be able to handle such a serious disease, our public health agencies and health care institutions made some serious mistakes.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention neglected to consult with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration when developing guidance for hospitals. It issued the guidelines and then had to reissue them because they had not adequately accounted for air-handling systems and missed the mark when it came to personal protective equipment.

Congress waited much too long to provide emergency supplemental funding to help our health care and public health infrastructure respond. And one governor quarantined a nurse only because she had provided humanitarian assistance in an area where the disease was prevalent. Communications to the public about what was happening were disorganized, confusing and unnecessarily frightening.

Today, the threat from Ebola is more serious. The World Health Organization has declared it to be a global public health emergency because Ebola has again defied controls and spread to the city of Goma in the Democratic Republic of Congo, where it could in turn spread throughout more densely populated urban areas and gain access to the global transportation system. We support this declaration and the additional resources and attention it should bring to the situation, but the WHO should have made it earlier. Ebola was an emergency long before it spread to Goma.

There are encouraging signs that some experimental Ebola drugs are working, and the CDC and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services seem to be more effectively tracking the disease. On the other hand, changes made previously to help local hospitals in the U.S. better prepare to treat those infected are not being implemented as designed. And that will have real human consequences the next time Ebola or another highly in-

fectious disease _ including a new highly pathogenic strain of influenza _ reaches America.

During the outbreak five years ago, 56 hospitals across the U.S. were designated Ebola treatment centers, or ETCs. The idea was to increase national capacity to care for patients who contracted this highly infectious disease. These hospitals are mostly clustered around major airports where travelers from West Africa are likely to arrive, including Chicago’s O’Hare International Airport. They were initially equipped with dedicated clinical care resources, specialized infrastructure and trained staff to safely manage and treat patients suspected or confirmed to have Ebola. Since its inception in 2014, fewer resources have been allocated to this hospital network. As a result, the ETCs are having difficulty maintaining their ability to respond to Ebola cases that may come again to the U.S., and other infectious diseases that may follow.






Outbreaks are costly. Public health responses to Ebola, Zika, MERS, SARS and other diseases cost tens of billions of dollars, much of which can be avoided by taking preventive action. Congress can wait until Ebola or some equally deadly infectious disease arrives in our country, overwhelms state, local, tribal and territorial health care and public health capacity, and threatens lives and then provide billions in emergency supplemental funding. Or Congress can now recognize that these significant disease events will continue to occur and proactively take steps to ensure we can respond by creating a standing response fund.

In 2018, the bipartisan Blue Ribbon Study Panel on Biodefense, which we co-chair, issued a report called Budget Reform for Biodefense. In it, we recommended \$2 billion for the Public Health Emergency Fund _ a substantial increase over current funding levels _ and which would be replenished with regular annual appropriations. Hospitals, other health care institutions and the public health community would have the funds they need, when they need it, to immediately protect our citizens. We hope that Congress will take up this recommendation soon, before Ebola _ or another disease to which we are not paying as much attention _ sickens and kills too many people here in the United States.

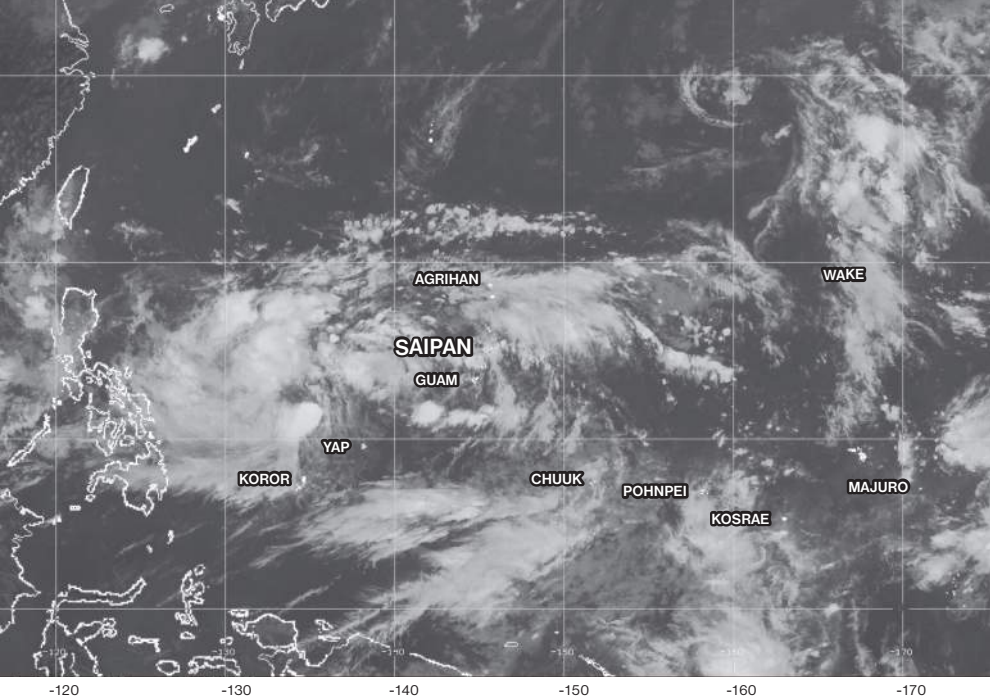
Former U.S. Sen. Joe Lieberman and former Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Ridge, the first U.S. secretary of Homeland Security, co-chair the bipartisan Blue Ribbon Study Panel on Biodefense.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY	
									
Breezy. Cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. South winds 20 to 25 mph.		Cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Southwest winds 15 to 25 mph.		Cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.		Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.		Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	
84°	77°	84°	77°	84°	77°	84°	77°	84°	77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 8:36 AM, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2019
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Numerous showers are seen over Tinian and Saipan, with isolated showers over Guam and Rota. Mostly cloudy to cloudy skies with gentle to moderate winds prevail across the Marianas. Latest buoy observations show seas between 3 and 6 feet.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorm	84° / 79°	
Palau	Windy	85° / 79°	
Yap	Thunderstorm	86° / 81°	
Chuuk	Thunderstorm	85° / 79°	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorm	86° / 76°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorm	86° / 76°	
Majuro	Thunderstorm	86° / 81°	

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	57° / 52°	
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	82° / 63°	
Hong Kong	Thunderstorm	90° / 78°	
Honolulu	Mostly Cloudy	90° / 78°	
London	Showers	72° / 54°	
Los Angeles	Sunny	80° / 64°	
Manila	Thunderstorm	84° / 79°	
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	64° / 46°	
Miami	Partly Cloudy	86° / 79°	
New York	Partly Cloudy	88° / 73°	
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	90° / 72°	
Paris	Cloudy	77° / 55°	
Busan	Mostly Cloudy	79° / 72°	
Rome	Partly Cloudy	84° / 64°	
Salem	Sunny	94° / 70°	
San Francisco	Sunny	67° / 54°	
Seoul	Showers	73° / 63°	
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	82° / 68°	
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	93° / 74°	



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
12:21 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.09	
5:15 AM	LOW TIDE	1.67	
12:17 PM	HIGH TIDE	0.13	
7:10 PM	LOW TIDE	1.80	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:05 AM	6:22 PM
Thursday	6:05 AM	6:21 PM
Friday	6:05 AM	6:20 PM
Saturday	6:05 AM	6:19 PM
Sunday	6:05 AM	6:19 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	3:28 AM	4:37 PM
Thursday	-	4:18 AM	5:18 PM
Friday	-	5:07 AM	5:57 PM
Saturday	-	5:54 AM	6:34 PM
Sunday	-	6:41 AM	7:11 PM

NEWS DESK

For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2019

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:15am	9:57am	Daily	UA174	7:30am	8:07am	Daily
UA105	6:25pm	7:05pm	2, 4	UA104	4:50pm	5:31pm	2, 4
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3451	3:30am	6:30am	4	7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7	7C3452	9:35pm	2:30am+1	3
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	1:35am	5:20am	Daily	7C3402	9:30am	3:10pm	Daily
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1	TW307	7:00pm	12:35am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	TW307	7:05pm	12:35am+1	1
7C3403	4:45am	8:35am	1, 2, 3, 5, 7	OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
7C3403	5:00am	8:30am	4	OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3403	5:00am	8:50am	6	7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	1, 2, 4, 6, 7
7C3401	4:10pm	7:45pm	4, 7	7C3404	10:40pm	4:10am+1	3, 5
7C3401	4:10pm	8:10pm	1, 2, 3, 5, 6				
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648	6:10am	8:50am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:30pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)				HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN			
JD396	7:30am	12:05pm	1	JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4	JD395	8:50pm	5:00am+1	7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:30am	7:50am	2, 6	3U8645	8:10pm	3:10am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU764	1:30am	6:00am	3, 5, 7	MU763	4:50pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN	OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA117/183	9:15am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM	UA192/174	9:45pm	8:07am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA117/183	9:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	UA184/174	10:25pm	8:07am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA117/193	9:15am	10:40pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR	UA184/174	11:30pm	8:07am+1	2, 5 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:40am	1 via ICN	OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UO43	5:35am	8:25am	1	UO42	6:25pm	1:20am+1	7
UO43	5:50am	8:40am	3, 5, 7	UO42	9:25pm	4:20am+1	2, 4, 6
UA117/159	9:15am	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM	UA116/174	10:45pm	8:07am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; BC SkyMark ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. (*The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.*)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA				1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily	1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily	1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily	1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN				1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily	1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily	1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily	1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM				TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily	2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
GUAM TO ROTA				2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily	2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily	2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily	2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
				2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
				2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
				2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
				2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Business

Find a new hobby at the Cave Shop



BEA CABRERA

The Cave Shop offers a wide range of products from smoking paraphernalia to caps and island lifestyle accessories.

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

The Cave Shop is located along Beach Road, a perfect location facing the ocean as it sends a vibe of liveliness and diversity present in island living.

Primarily a smoking accessories shop where people can find glass bong, pipes, hookahs, oil burner, and many more, it also offers other ac-

cessories for everyday lifestyle such as caps, bags and belt bags, and stickers.

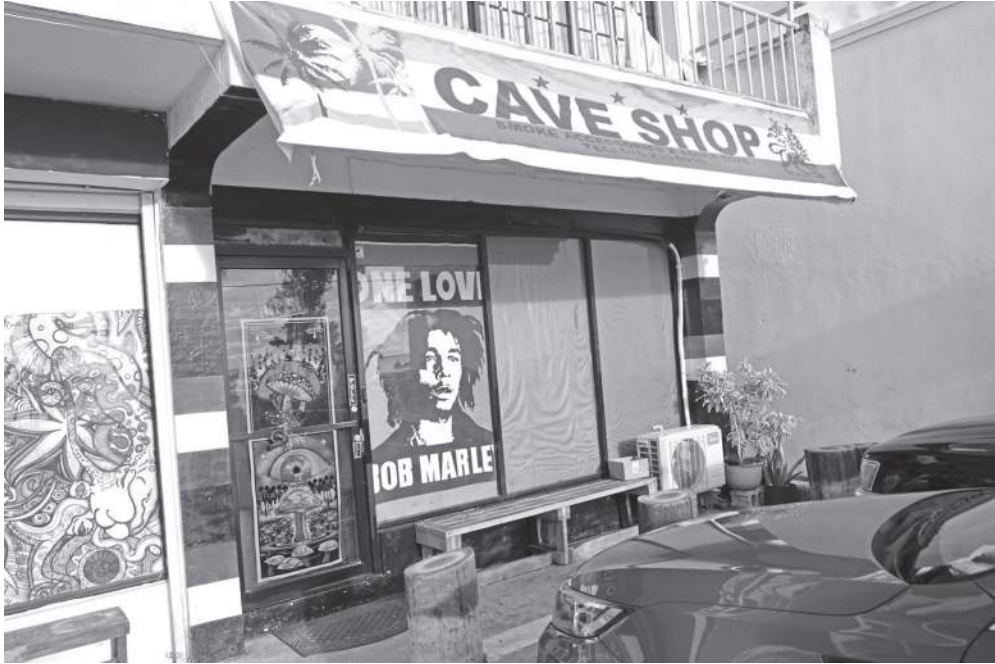
According to owner Nolie R. Labadan, he started making personalized caps online in 2016.

"I started with a few pieces selling to family and friends at first, but then my customers grew. A year later in December 2017, I decided to finally open up a shop that will allow me to serve to a bigger market and

sell other hobbies or interests that people are into," he said.

"I used the name Cave Shop because in the old days, people gathered in caves to keep warm, to smoke, or share a smoke. I also thought that the name would be perfect because it will allow me to put out several merchandise," he added.

The Cave Shop also carries products that are perfect for gift-giving such as body



BEA CABRERA

The Cave Shop is located along Beach Road beside Hobbies Vapeshop.

piercing accessories, hemp body lotion which has hemp oil perfect for relaxation and moisturize any skin type, Bob Marley ashtrays, and towels.

"Since October is fast coming, we have masks that will be perfect for Halloween costume parties on island," La-

badan said.

Labadan said that one of the store's goals is to be a marijuana dispensary when the cannabis regulations in the CNMI are set. "It really depends on the specifics of the regulations that the [Commonwealth Casino Commission] will come

out with and the cost of business license and taxes."

The Cave Shop is open Monday to Saturday from 10am to 7pm. For more information, you can call them at (671)777-6245 and look them up on Facebook: "Cavehauz."

PG&E plan offers billions to victims, others after wildfires

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—PG&E Corp. proposed Monday to resolve its bankruptcy case by offering nearly \$18 billion to settle claims from devastating wildfires started by its equipment in recent years—an amount immediately criticized by victims who said less than half of that is intended for them.

The preliminary plan filed in federal court is part of its effort to exit from Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection by next year.

PG&E sought the protection in January because it said it could not afford billions in damages from wildfires in 2017 and 2018 that were caused by company equipment, including a November fire that killed 86 people and largely destroyed the Northern California town of Paradise.

The company said in court papers it was confident it could raise more than \$30 billion in debt and equity financing from the largest banks in the nation. The strategy would

not result in rate increases for its customers, PG&E said.

"Under the plan we filed today, we will meet our commitment to fairly compensate wildfire victims and we will emerge from Chapter 11 financially sound and able to continue meeting California's clean energy goals," CEO and President Bill Johnson said in a statement.

PG&E is under deadline pressure to emerge from bankruptcy by June 2020 in order to participate in a state wildfire fund to help California's major utilities pay out future claims as climate change makes wildfires across the U.S. West more frequent and more destructive.

The plan, which must be approved by state regulators, proposes settling aside two trusts totaling \$16.9 billion to pay victims and insurance companies. Another \$1 billion will go toward local governments affected by the wildfires.

An attorney for the commit-

tee of wildfire victims involved in the bankruptcy case said she believes they are owed far more, and will urge the committee to oppose the plan.

"Huge disappointment in their attitude toward compensating victims of the fires," Cecily Dumas said.

The plan's filing came three days after San Francisco leaders offered to buy pieces of PG&E's assets for \$2.5 billion so the city can run parts of the power system on its own.

Mayor London Breed and City Attorney Dennis Herrera said in a statement that the offer was "competitive, fair and equitable" and would lead to financial stability for the beleaguered investor-owned utility.

"We look forward to positive, collaborative discussions with PG&E on this critical issue," the statement issued Sunday said. "Throughout this process we will protect the best interests of our city as we strive toward the independent energy future that San Francisco deserves."

States led by Texas target Google in new antitrust probe

WASHINGTON (AP)—Fifty U.S. states and territories, led by Texas, announced an investigation into Google's "potential monopolistic behavior."

The Monday announcement closely followed one from a separate group of states Friday that disclosed an investigation into Facebook's market dominance. The two probes widen the antitrust scrutiny of big tech companies beyond sweeping federal and congressional investigations and enforcement action by European regulators.

Nebraska attorney general Doug Peterson, a Republican, said at a press conference held in Washington that 50 attorneys general joining together sends a "strong message to Google."

California and Alabama are not part of the investigation, although it does include the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. Google is head-

quartered in California and employs more workers there than in any other region. Google also broke ground last year on a \$600 million data-center project in Alabama.

Tara Gallegos, a spokeswoman for California Attorney General Xavier Becerra, declined to confirm or deny any state investigation and would not comment on the announcement by the other states. Mike Lewis, a spokesman for Alabama Attorney General Steve Marshall, also said the state's legal team had no comment on the probe.

The news conference featured a dozen Republican attorneys general plus the Democratic attorney general of Washington, D.C.

Google's parent company, Alphabet, has a market value of more than \$820 billion and controls so many facets of the

internet that it's almost impossible to surf the web for long without running into at least one of its services. Google's dominance in online search and advertising enables it to target millions of consumers for their personal data.

The state officials assembled in Washington were vague about the focus and scope of the investigation, although several suggested scrutiny of the company's dominant search and advertising businesses.

Several advocacy groups applauded the announcement, saying the power of tech companies has gone unchecked for too long. Antitrust enforcement "can help consumers and innovative competitors access markets for platforms that are more fair and more competitive," the group Public Knowledge said in a statement.



LEADING INDICATORS

S&P
2,978.43
-0.28
-0.01%

DOW
26,835.51
+38.05
+0.14%

NASDAQ
8,087.44
-15.64
-0.19%

EXCHANGE RATES		Hong Kong Dollar		Russian Ruble	
Australian Dollar	1.46	Indian Rupee	71.04	Singapore Dollar	1.38
British Pound	0.81	Japanese Yen	107.36	South Korean Won	1,173.06
Canadian Dollar	1.32	Malaysian Ringgit	4.13	Swiss Franc	0.99
Chinese Yuan	6.99	New Zealand Dollar	1.56	Taiwan Dollar	30.67
Euro	0.91	Philippine Peso	51.05	Thailand Baht	30.59

Nation

MIAMI (AP)—More than 100 Bahamians who hoped to evacuate to Florida after Hurricane Dorian but didn't have visas were kicked off a ferry because operators failed to coordinate the mission with authorities, officials said Monday.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection said in a statement that the agency requested for the company to coordinate with U.S. and Bahamian governments to arrange prescreening of passengers before departing Freeport but it failed to do so. Footage from WSVN-TV shows the Balearia Caribbean ship traveling to Fort Lauderdale on Sunday with a loudspeaker message saying passengers who didn't have a U.S. visa needed to disembark.

Bahamians need a visa to travel to

the U.S. unless they are prescreened by U.S. customs officers at one of the two main Bahamian airports. The U.S. agency also can arrange special prescreening for passengers departing from ports. However, U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio says Balearia Caribbean decided to depart Sunday instead of waiting for the prescreening.

Rubio and Florida's other U.S. senator, Rick Scott, have asked President Donald Trump's administration to waive visa requirements altogether for Bahamian storm victims with relatives in the U.S., but Trump indicated Monday that he wants to keep stringent vetting in place in part because of "people going to the Bahamas that weren't supposed to be there."

The Spanish ferry company apol-

ogized Monday to the 119 passengers who could not be taken to Fort Lauderdale. In the footage, passengers could be seen walking along the aisles—some carrying young children—to leave the ferry after they had already boarded the ship.

In a statement, spokeswoman Pilar Boix said the ferry allowed passengers to embark thinking they didn't need visas.

"The shipping company later received indications that in order to travel to the U.S., the passengers would need pre-clearance authorization in person at the immigration offices in Nassau," Boix said in an email.

A day before the port incident, hundreds of Bahamians had arrived to Florida on a cruise ship that Bahamas Paradise Cruise Line had offered at no cost. CBP says 857 Bahamians were properly screened and arrived to the Port of Palm Beach "without incident."

The company said in a statement Monday that the operators spent nearly a full day going through the vetting process with U.S. officials on the ground in Freeport. About one-fifth of the passengers had to show a police report along with a birth certificate, the company said.

Florida state Rep. Shevrin Jones,

of Bahamian ancestry, had asked Rubio and Scott for help asking the Trump administration to waive visa requirements. Jones said what happened at the boat was a "misunderstanding" between ferry administrators and U.S. agencies but said the government needs to make the process easier on families fleeing the devastated islands.

"I hope that they look at this as a humanitarian issue," Jones said. "This needs to happen now. The longer we wait, the more lives will be lost."

Trump gave no indication Monday that he is considering lifting requirements for Bahamians. Trump said vetting should continue for those traveling to the U.S. and said people from the affected islands could instead be taken to other Bahamian regions not hit by Dorian.

"We have to be very careful. Everybody needs totally proper documentation," Trump said before he flew to North Carolina to inspect hurricane damage and speak at a political rally. "I don't want to allow people that weren't supposed to be in the Bahamas to come into the United States, including some very bad people and some very bad gang members and some very, very bad drug dealers."

Florida-bound evacuees from Bahamas asked to get off ferry

Members of the fire rescue team Task Force 8, from Gainesville, Florida, help remove a body one week after Hurricane Dorian hit The Mudd neighborhood in the Marsh Harbor area of Abaco Island, Bahamas, Monday, Sept. 9, 2019.

AP

Accused Mar-a-Lago trespasser proclaims innocence; thanks US

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP)—A Chinese businesswoman defending herself on charges that she trespassed at President Donald Trump's Mar-a-Lago club and lied to Secret Service agents gave one of the shortest opening statements in legal history Monday, proclaiming her innocence and appreciation for the country that may put her in prison.

After a federal prosecutor gave a 20-minute opening statement laying out Yujing Zhang's alleged lies that gained her access to the president's Palm Beach resort on March 30 and her suspicious activities during her brief presence on the grounds, Zhang stood at the defense table for 20 seconds and addressed the 10 women and two men.

"I don't believe I did anything wrong and that's what I want to say.

USA, thank you," Zhang said in another unusual turn in an unusual case. She faces up to six years in prison if convicted.

Prosecutor Michael Sherwin, on the other hand, said evidence and testimony will show that Zhang's story to club employees and agents contained one lie after another as it evolved. First, the 33-year-old Shanghai consultant told a Secret Service agent outside the resort that she was there to visit the pool and didn't answer when an employee asked if she was the daughter of a member, he said.

The confusion over who she might be got her past two lines of security and into a reception area, where she surreptitiously took photos and video and told an employee first that she was there for a United Na-

tions friendship meeting that didn't exist, and then that she was there for a dinner, Sherwin said. When confronted by Secret Service, she dashed into a restroom where an employee saw her frantically texting, he said. He said she then told agents she was there to meet with the president and his daughter, Ivanka Trump, about China-U.S. trade. The president and his family were staying at Mar-a-Lago that weekend, but he was at his nearby golf club when Zhang arrived.

Sherwin said Zhang spoke English well during her interaction with employees and agents, and was "calm, cool and collected."

"She wasn't nervous or rattled at all," Sherwin said an employee would testify. "She was extremely stoic."

NRA sues San Francisco over terrorist declaration

The National Rifle Association sued San Francisco on Monday over the city's recent declaration that the gun-rights lobby is a "domestic terrorist organization."

The lawsuit, filed in U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California, accuses city officials of violating the gun lobby's free speech rights for political reasons and says the city is seeking to blacklist anyone associated with the NRA. It asks the court to step in "to instruct elected officials that freedom of speech means you cannot silence or punish those with whom you disagree."

Last week, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors passed a resolution calling the NRA a "domestic terrorist organization," contending the NRA spreads propaganda that seeks to deceive the public about the

dangers of gun violence.

"This action is an assault on all advocacy organizations across the country," said William A. Brewer III, the NRA's lawyer. "There can be no place in our society for this manner of behavior by government officials. Fortunately, the NRA, like all U.S. citizens, is protected by the First Amendment."

San Francisco's resolution follows some recent high-profile shootings, including one in Gilroy, California, about 80 miles (129 kilometers) southeast of San Francisco, where a gunman entered a festival with an AK-style long gun, killing three people and injuring 17 before killing himself. Since that shooting on July 28, there have been at least three mass shootings—in El Paso, Texas; Dayton, Ohio; and in the West Texas towns of Odessa and Midland. (AP)

Asia

North Korea fires 2 projectiles after offering talks with US

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea launched two projectiles toward the sea on Tuesday, South Korea's military said, hours after the North offered to resume nuclear diplomacy with the United States but warned its dealings with Washington may end without new U.S. proposals.

The launches and demand for new proposals were apparently aimed at pressuring the United States to make concessions when the North Korea-U.S. talks restart. North Korea is widely believed to want the United States to provide security guarantees and extensive relief from U.S.-led sanctions in return for limited denuclearization steps.

The North Korean projectiles fired from its South Phyongan province, which surrounds its capital city of Pyongyang, flew about 330 kilometers (205 miles) across the country and in the direction of the waters off its east coast, according to South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff and Defense Ministry.

The military said South Korea will monitor possible additional launches. The JCS didn't immediately say whether the weapons were ballistic missiles or rocket artillery. "More detailed analysis is needed to determine the exact specifications," JCS spokesman Kim Joon-rak said.

Tuesday's launches were the eighth round of launches since late July and the first since Aug. 24. The previous seven launches have revealed short-range missile and rocket artillery systems that experts say would potentially expand its capabilities to strike targets throughout South Korea, including U.S. military bases.

On Monday night, the North's first vice foreign minister, Choe Son Hui, said North Korea is willing to resume nuclear diplomacy in late September but that Washington must come to the negotiating table with acceptable new proposals. She said if the proposals don't satisfy North Korea, dealings between the two countries may end.

President Donald Trump called North Korea's announcement "interesting."



People watch a TV showing a file image of a North Korea's missile launch during a news program at the Seoul Railway Station in Seoul, South Korea, Tuesday, Sept. 10, 2019.

"We'll see what happens," Trump said. "In the meantime, we have our hostages back, we're getting the remains of our great heroes back and we've had no nuclear testing for a long time."

The White House said it was aware of the new reports of projectiles being launched from North Korea and was continuing to monitor the situation and consulting with its allies in the region.

South Korea's presidential office said national security adviser Chung Eui-yong presided over an emergency National Security Council meeting where officials expressed "strong concern" over the continuing short-range launches by the North.

Japan's defense ministry said the projectiles did not land in Japan's territorial waters or its exclusive economic zone and there was no indication the launches posed a direct threat to Japan's security.

"We believe North Korea is upgrading its (missile) technology by repeatedly firing missiles," said Japanese Defense Minister Takeshi Iwaya. "We consider this a serious problem and will continue to monitor the develop-

ment, while ensuring the functioning of warning and surveillance activity."

In the late-night statement carried by state media, Choe said North Korea is willing to sit down with the United States "for comprehensive discussions in late September of the issues we have so far taken up, at a time and place to be agreed."

Choe said she hopes the United States will bring "a proposal geared to the interests of the DPRK and the U.S. and based on decision methods acceptable to us." DPRK stands for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the North's official name.

She warned that "if the U.S. side fingers again the worn-out scenario which has nothing to do with new decision methods at the DPRK-U.S. working negotiation to be held with so much effort, the DPRK-U.S. dealings may come to an end."

Kim Dong-yub, an analyst at Seoul's Institute for Far Eastern Studies, said the North likely tested one of the new weapons systems it demonstrated in July and August. They include a mobile short-range ballistic missile system that experts say re-

sembled an enlarged version of the U.S. Army Tactical Missile System and a "super-large" multiple rocket system the North tested on Aug. 24.

Kim said the North was apparently trying to increase its bargaining power by pairing its dialogue offer with short-range launches, sending a message to Trump that it could potentially tests bigger weapons if the United States refuses to make major concessions.

Talks on North Korea's nuclear disarmament fell apart in February when Trump rejected North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's demand for sweeping sanctions relief in return for partial disarmament at their second summit in Vietnam.

It was a huge embarrassment for the young North Korean leader, who made a dayslong train trip to the Vietnamese capital to obtain the sanctions relief he needs to revitalize his country's troubled economy.

In April, Kim said he was open to another summit with Trump but set the end of the year as a deadline for the U.S. to offer improved terms for an agreement to revive the nuclear diplomacy.

Afghans brace for fresh violence after US-Taliban talks halt

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Afghans braced for a possible new wave of Taliban violence Monday after President Donald Trump abruptly broke off nearly a year of talks with the insurgent group just when a deal to end America's longest war seemed to be at hand.

Trump's stunning weekend announcement that he had canceled a secret meeting with Taliban leaders and the Afghan president at Camp David and halted negotiations left many in Washington and Kabul scrambling to understand just what happens now.

"They're dead," Trump said of the negotiations on Monday, after the Taliban signaled they would return to talks.

At the same time, the Taliban said Trump's decision to upend the deal just before its signing "displays lack of composure and experience," and they vowed to continue their fight against "foreign occupation."

"What more violence can they bring?" Afghan presidential spokesman Sediq Sediqqi said in an interview. "What else can they do? You know they have killed 300 civilians in the past three weeks. ... So we will not be surprised if we see more attacks, but they have already done it."

Political analyst Waheed Muzhda was gloomy about the prospects for the country.

"Unfortunately all the months of efforts came to an end with no result," he said, "and I think the fight in Afghanistan will continue for long years."

Tens of thousands of Afghan civilians and more than 2,400 American service members have been killed in nearly 18 years of war that began when the U.S. invaded after the Sept. 11 attacks. The Taliban ruled Afghanistan from 1996 to 2001, when they were ousted by the U.S. military for hosting the mastermind of 9/11, Osama bin Laden.

Afghans were wary of fresh violence in part because Trump's announcement came shortly before a string of highly sensitive days in Afghanistan, including Monday's anniversary of the killing of anti-Taliban commander Ahmad Shah Massoud, the major Shiite Muslim holy day of Ashoura on Tuesday, and Wednesday's 9/11 anniversary.

There were no immediate reports of any major attacks in the country, but the streets of the capital, Kabul, were largely empty as armed supporters of Massoud, a rare Afghan unifying figure who was killed two days before 9/11, roamed in flag-draped vehicles, firing into the air in a show of power. One police officer was killed, officials said.

Elsewhere in Kabul, a roadside bomb wounded three civilians, but there was no claim of responsibility. And in northeastern Takhar province, the Taliban claimed attacks on at least two districts overnight, with no immediate reports of casualties.

Hong Kong tells US to stay out; students form protest chains

HONG KONG (AP)—Thousands of students formed human chains outside schools across Hong Kong on Monday to show solidarity after violent weekend clashes between police and activists seeking democratic reforms in the semiautonomous Chinese territory.

The silent protest came as the Hong Kong government condemned the "illegal behavior of radical protesters" and warned the U.S. to stay out of its affairs.

Thousands of demonstrators held a peaceful march Sunday to the U.S. Consulate to seek Washington's support, but violence erupted hours later in a business and retail district as protesters vandalized subway stations, set fires and blocked traffic, prompting police to fire tear gas.

Hong Kong Chief Executive Carrie Lam agreed last week to withdraw

an extradition bill that sparked a summer of protests, but demonstrators want other demands to be met, including direct elections of city leaders and an independent inquiry into police actions.

Protesters in their Sunday march appealed to President Donald Trump to "stand with Hong Kong" and ensure Congress passes a bill that would impose economic sanctions and penalties on Hong Kong and mainland China officials found to suppress democracy and human rights in the city.

Hong Kong's government expressed regret over the U.S. bill, known as the Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act. It said in a statement Monday that "foreign legislatures should not interfere in any form in the internal affairs" of Hong Kong and that the city will safeguard its own autonomy.

Lam on Monday visited a subway station vandalized by protesters in an unusual public appearance. A video distributed by the government showed Lam inspecting damage and telling a commuter she was "heartbroken" to see the destruction.

"I hope Hong Kong will be calm again soon and no more violence," Lam said.

The unrest has become the biggest challenge to Beijing's rule since it took over Hong Kong, and is an embarrassment to its ruling Communist Party ahead of Oct. 1 celebrations of its 70th year in power. Beijing has slammed the protests as effort by criminals to split the territory from China, backed by what it said were hostile foreigners.

Trump has suggested it's a matter for China to handle, though he also has said that no violence should be

used. Political analysts suggest his response was muted to avoid disrupting talks with China over their tariff war.

High school and university students across Hong Kong held hands on Monday, following similar protests last week, forming long human chains that snaked into the streets outside their schools. They were joined by many graduates wearing the protesters' trademark black tops and masks.

Many also rallied against what they viewed as excessive use of force by police, with one student carrying a placard that read "Stop violence, we are not rioters."

Anger was fueled over the weekend after images of a youth being bloodily beaten up by riot police at a subway station were widely shared on social media. The boy, who didn't fight back, was pinned to the floor and appeared unconscious under a pool of blood.

World

Johnson suspends UK Parliament after latest Brexit defeat

LONDON (AP)—The simmering showdown between Prime Minister Boris Johnson and Britain's Parliament over Brexit came to a head as lawmakers delivered three defeats to the government's plans for leaving the European Union, before being sent home early Tuesday for a contentious five-week suspension of the legislature.

In a session that ran well past midnight, Parliament enacted a law to block a no-deal Brexit next month, ordered the government to release private communications about its Brexit plans and rejected Johnson's call for a snap election to break the political deadlock.

Parliament was then suspended—or prorogued—at the government's request until Oct. 14, a drastic move that gives Johnson a respite from rebellious lawmakers as he plots his next move.

Opponents accuse him of trying to avoid democratic scrutiny. What is usually a solemn, formal prorogation ceremony erupted into raucous scenes as opposition lawmakers in the House of Commons chamber shouted "Shame on you" and held up signs reading "Silenced."

Commons Speaker John Bercow expressed his displeasure at Parliament's suspension, saying "this is not a standard or normal prorogation."

"It's one of the longest for decades and it represents an act of executive fiat," he said.

The prime minister has had a turbulent week since Parliament returned from its summer



AP
People walk past markings by protestors on the pavement opposite the Houses of Parliament in London, Monday, Sept. 9, 2019.

break on Sept. 3. He kicked 21 lawmakers out of the Conservative group in Parliament after they sided with the opposition, and saw two ministers quit his government—one of them his own brother.

Parliament's suspension ended a day of blows to the embattled Johnson. First an opposition-backed measure designed to stop Britain from crashing out of the EU on Oct. 31 without a divorce deal became law after receiving the formal assent of Queen Elizabeth II. The law compels the government to ask the EU for a three-month delay if no deal has been agreed by Oct. 19.

Johnson says the country's

delayed exit must happen at the end of October, with or without a divorce agreement to smooth the way. But many lawmakers fear a no-deal Brexit would be economically devastating, and are determined to stop him.

"I will not ask for another delay," Johnson said. But he has few easy ways out of it. His options—all of them extreme—include disobeying the law, which could land him in court or even prison, and resigning so that someone else would have to ask for a delay.

Legislators also demanded the government release, by Wednesday, emails and text messages among aides and of-

ficials relating to suspending Parliament and planning for Brexit amid allegations that the suspension is being used to circumvent democracy.

Under parliamentary rules, the government is obliged to release the documents.

In a statement, the government said it would "consider the implications of this vote and respond in due course."

Then, early Tuesday, lawmakers rebuffed, for a second time, Johnson's request for an early election, which he said was "the only way to break the deadlock in the House."

Opposition parties voted against the measure or abstained, denying Johnson the

two-thirds majority he needed. They want to make sure a no-deal departure is blocked before agreeing to an election.

"We're eager for an election, but as keen as we are, we are not prepared to inflict the disaster of a no deal on our communities, our jobs, our services, or indeed our rights," Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn said.

Johnson acknowledged Monday that a no-deal Brexit "would be a failure of statecraft" for which he would be partially to blame.

On a visit to Dublin, Johnson

said he would "overwhelmingly prefer to find an agreement" and believed a deal could be struck by Oct. 18, when leaders of all 28 EU countries hold a summit in Brussels.

The comments marked a change of tone, if not substance, for Johnson, who is accused by opponents of driving Britain at full-tilt toward a cliff-edge Brexit.

Irish Prime Minister Leo Varadkar warned Johnson that "there's no such thing as a clean break," and if Britain crashed out, it would "cause severe disruption for British and Irish people alike."

Johnson and Varadkar said they had "a positive and constructive meeting," but there was no breakthrough on the issue of the Irish border, the main stumbling block to a Brexit deal.

The EU says Britain has not produced any concrete proposals for replacing the contentious "backstop," a provision in the withdrawal agreement reached by Johnson's predecessor Theresa May that is designed to ensure an open border between EU member Ireland and the U.K.'s Northern Ireland.

WORLD BRIEFS

3 killed, including 2 children, in shooting in Dutch city

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP)—A Dutch police officer and two children died and a woman was seriously wounded in a shooting Monday at a home in the city of Dordrecht, authorities said. Police said in a statement that the 35-year-old officer was suspected of being the shooter. It was not immediately clear if he was related to the children, who were aged 8 and 12, or to the 28-year-old injured woman, but police spokesman Wim Hoonhout told The Associated Press in a telephone interview that "it seems like a family incident."

Police said further investigation was needed to definitively establish the motive. Photos from the scene showed a large police presence in a residential neighborhood and at least one ambulance parked in the street as people stood in the street looking on. Dordrecht Mayor Wouter Kolff tweeted that it was an "extremely se-

rious shooting" and said he would visit the scene later in the evening.

Sweden rejects TRUMP vanity license plate request

COPENHAGEN, Denmark (AP)—Swedish authorities say that a man has been denied a vanity plate with the letters TRUMP because it violated motor vehicle department rules, calling the letter combination "offensive." The Aftonbladet tabloid, one of Sweden's largest newspapers, reported Saturday that the man said he "was drunk and thought it was fun to apply" online for a new license plate with U.S. President Donald Trump's last name "because the car is American." The Swedish Transport Agency confirmed its ruling to The Associated Press on Monday, saying it doesn't approve letter combinations referring to politics. It informed Marcus Saaf, who made the request, that its ruling couldn't be appealed.

US emergency workers recover more bodies in Bahamas

MARSH HARBOUR, Bahamas (AP)—U.S. emergency workers on Monday found five bodies in the debris left by Hurricane Dorian in the Bahamas, and they said they expected to find more victims a week after the devastating storm hit.

Bahamians, meanwhile, were also searching the rubble, salvaging the few heirlooms left intact by the Category 5 storm that, according to the official count over the weekend, has killed at least 44 people.

Members of the Gainesville, Florida, fire department were operating in the remains of The Mudd, the Bahamas' largest Haitian immigrant community.

"We've probably hit at most one-tenth of this area, and so far we found five human remains," said Joseph Hillhouse, assistant chief of Gainesville Fire Rescue. "I would say based off of our sample size, we're going to see more."

After the Americans recovered bodies, Bahamas police and medical authorities moved in to conduct autopsies and fly the remains from Abaco island, in the northwest Bahamas, south to the capital, Nassau.

"There are still more bodies," said Genoise Arnold, a resident of The Mudd who said that at least three neighbors died in the storm.

Arnold said one neighbor clung to a tree during the storm and succumbed to flood waters that surged through the low-lying neighborhood. Others were caught under their homes when winds turned the structures into splinters, leaving the cowering residents exposed, he said.

The huge debris piles left by the storm are challenging for search and recovery teams, which cannot use bulldozers or other heavy equipment to search for the dead. That makes recovery and identi-

cation a slow process.

The Bahamas government has announced a telephone hotline where Bahamians can call to report family members who have been missing since the storm.

At least five deaths have been blamed on the storm in the southeastern United States and one in Puerto Rico.

In Rocky Creek, a settlement of a few families on the east end of battered Grand Bahama island, members of the Reckley family picked through what remained of nearly a dozen homes that had been inhabited by their extended family.

The Reckleys and their assorted spouses, children and in-laws lived off the income from three boats they use for fishing and for providing tourist excursions from a pristine beachfront facing the turquoise Caribbean.

The family rode out the

storm in nearby government shelters, and returned to find their smashed homes.

The motors of the Reckleys' boats were also destroyed. The entire extended family together earned about \$800 a month, not enough to buy insurance, said Synobia Reckley, 25, who traveled from the island's main city, Freeport, to help her family.

"It hurt. This is all I know," Reckley said. "We lost a lot of old pictures. ... We don't have nothing to look back on. It's just heartbreaking."

The only aid they have received so far is from foreign aid groups and U.S. firefighters, said Reckley's husband, Dexter Edwards, a heavy equipment operator.

"Right now, ain't much joy. You just gotta try to keep your head up," Edwards said. "There's always a future. Only thing we can do right now is rebuild—rebuild and try to move forward."

Focus

By TIM SULLIVAN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

A US priest, a Philippine village, and decades of secrecy

TALUSTUSAN, Philippines (AP)—The American priest's voice echoed over the phone line.

"Happy days are gone," he said in the 2018 call, recorded by a young man whose accusations would shake this little island village and reveal how allegations of sex crimes by priests are still ignored, sometimes for decades, in one of the world's most Catholic countries. "It's all over."

The young man later told The Associated Press he was 12 when Father Pius Hendricks first took him into the bathroom of the church's little rectory and sexually assaulted him.

"It's a natural thing," he says the priest told him, "It's part of becoming an adult."

The abuse continued for years, he says. But he told no one until a village outsider began asking questions about the priest's generosity with local boys, and he feared his brother would be the next victim.

In November, he went to the police.

Soon after, local authorities arrested Hendricks, 78, and charged him with child abuse. Since then, investigators say, about 20 boys and men, one as young as 7, have reported that the priest sexually abused them. Investigators say the allegations go back well over a decade—though many believe the abuse goes back for generations—continuing until just months before the arrest.

Hendricks' arrest was a sudden fall for a priest who had presided over the community for nearly four decades, rebuilding its chapel, pressing local officials to pave the village road, paying school fees for poor children.

But the case also reflects just how long allegations of clergy abuse can stay submerged in the Philippines, where sexual crimes by priests rarely lead to official actions by church officials or government authorities.

"It's a culture of cover-up, a culture of silence, a culture of self-protection," said the Rev. Shay Cullen, an Irish priest who has spent decades in the Philippines and works with victims of child sexual abuse.

For nearly two decades, the Philippine church has vowed to confront a looming shadow of clergy abuse.

In 2002, the Philippines' national conference of bishops ended years of silence to admit that the church faced "cases of grave sexual mis-



AP
In this Feb. 19, 2019 photo, Philippine National Police, National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) agents escort Catholic priest Father Pius Hendricks to be served five additional arrest warrants at the Regional Special Operations Unit at Camp Bagong Diwa in suburban Taguig, east of Manila, Philippines. Investigators say about 20 boys and men, one as young as 7, have accused the priest of sexual abuse at his parish in Talustusan village, Naval township, Biliran province in central Philippines.

conduct" among the clergy. It promised change.

But in a country home to more than 80 million Catholics, such promises have long disappeared into a haze of tradition, piety and clerical influence.

On Biliran, the island where Hendricks spent nearly half his life, his fondness for boys had been widely discussed for decades among villagers, local officials and, according to a former Catholic brother, members of the clergy. While many people had long believed he was a pedophile, almost nothing was said openly.

That's how it happens across the Philippines. Silence continues to shield priest after priest.

On the island of Bohol, the priest Joseph Skelton serves mass, more than 30 years after the then-seminarian was convicted of sexual misconduct with a 15-year-old boy. Local news reports reveal even more working clergyman: the priest who continued to recruit

young men for the priesthood after admitting to sexually assaulting teenage boys; the priest who moved into a bishops' residence after being accused of raping a 17-year-old girl; the composer of sacred music accused of sexually abusing boys as young as six.

Prosecutions of accused priests are exceedingly rare here, and it's unclear if a priest has ever been convicted of child sexual abuse.

By comparison, the group BishopAccountability.org says that since 1990 more than 400 priests have been convicted in the U.S. on child sexual abuse charges.

The 23-year-old from Talustusan said he might not have come forward without encouragement from an American visitor to the village, the boyfriend of a woman related to an accuser.

Finally, fearing his younger brother could become a victim, he told his family, then local authorities, about the al-



AP
This Jan. 25, 2019, photo shows a room that was gifted to a former altar boy who has accused Father Pius Hendricks of sexual abuse in the village of Talustusan on Biliran Island in the central Philippines.

leged abuse.

Even then, the case may not have gone anywhere without intervention by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. The agency started its own probe of Hendricks under a statute that allows the U.S. government to prosecute child sexual abuse by American citizens anywhere in the world.

■ ■ ■

Hendricks, who was born working-class Cincinnati in 1941, became a Franciscan brother by his early 20s, taking the name Pius. His assignments ranged from the St. Catherine Indian School in Santa Fe, New Mexico to a Cincinnati neighborhood

where he helped run a youth boxing club.

His branch, the Province of St. John the Baptist, declined comment on his work, saying in a statement that it was "fully cooperating with the authorities."

Residents say Hendricks was still a Franciscan when he found his way to Talustusan. It was a quiet place with dirt roads and a time-worn chapel. He left the Franciscans around 1986 and was soon ordained as a priest by the local diocese.

Hendricks said he loved the village but he never learned to speak Bisaya, the primary local language, and never fit in fully. His sharp tongue was intimidating. "Crazy Filipino

people!" he would snap when frustrated.

Then there were the boys.

They stayed at Hendricks' house, rode in his car and walked with him through Talustusan, residents say.

"All of us knew about Pius and his boys," said a former Catholic clergyman who worked with Hendricks for years, and who spoke on condition of anonymity, fearing retaliation from the church.

Yet the church has done little to reckon with its role in what investigators now say was years of his abuse.

The Rev. Romulo Espina, a top official in the Diocese of Naval, where Hendricks served, insisted no diocesan leaders saw any signs of sexual abuse.

But he also quickly made clear that if Hendricks did anything wrong, the church bears no responsibility.

"If it is true, was he told to do it? No," Espina said. "You cannot attach the behavior to the institution. It is the devil."

For a poor village like Talustusan, having a its own priest—particularly an American one—meant a financial boost, with donations to rebuild the chapel, and jobs as drivers and clerks. Hendricks became the center of his own small economy, doling out jobs, loans and gifts.

Plenty of villagers there now mourn for him.

"I don't understand why they say these things about Father Pius," says Edrich Sacare, a 37-year-old from an impoverished family who spent nearly a decade living with Hendricks, working as an altar boy and at the church. Hendricks, in turn, sent Sacare to school. He insists he never saw Hendricks behave improperly.

The accusations have divided the village, cutting through friendships and families and isolating the accusers, who say the benefits Hendricks brought—status, money, jobs—blinded villagers to his crimes.

Hendricks' supporters say the accusers invented the charges, angry the priest stopped financially supporting them. The priest's lawyers dismiss any talk of guilt.

Numerous priests and brothers and a retired bishop who oversaw Hendricks either declined comment or did not respond to repeated messages.

In Cincinnati, the archdiocese has acknowledged Hendricks received some financial support from its missionary office but added a note to its website declaring, "Fr. Hendricks is not, nor has ever been, a priest of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati."

Good Housekeeping

Tips and techniques for those who dig transplanting season

By JESSICA DAMIANO
NEWSDAY

It's nearly prime transplanting time, but before you start digging, make sure you know what you're doing because trees can be difficult—and expensive—to replace. And the older and more established they are, with large root systems, the more care that needs to be taken. And moving large trees is best left to professionals.

Deciduous trees — those that drop their leaves in autumn — are better candidates for transplanting than evergreens, which more readily go into transplant shock. Be sure to employ these tips about timing and technique to lower the stress on the plant and raise your chance of success.

TRANSPLANTING DECIDUOUS TREES

Wait until deciduous trees have lost their leaves and entered dormancy, typically in mid- to late-autumn or early winter.

Dig up the tree when you plan to move it—not a day before. Having a planting hole prepared will go a long way toward reducing the chances of transplant shock, as it minimizes the time roots are exposed.

Make sure the new spot you choose for the tree takes into account the requirements of your specific tree, such as full sun or part shade, and is protected from strong winds and has well-draining soil.

Measure the diameter of the trunk about six inches above the soil line; multiply that number by four to five, then double that to determine the size of the hole you will dig around the tree to remove it. You'll double that number again to determine the size of the hole where the tree will be transplanted.

For a trunk that is 2 inches



Both needled and broadleaf evergreens are best transplanted in early spring, just after the ground has thawed, but they can be moved in August or September.

in diameter, for example, the hole for the transplanted tree would be 8 to 10 inches times 4; that is, a hole 32 to 40 inches in diameter. Dig the new hole first. Dig to a depth of 10 inches, adjusting as needed when planting.

To uproot the same size tree, you'd dig a hole that encircles the trunk by 8 to 10 inches all around. Take care to dig deeply — maybe 10 or so inches depending on the type, size and age of the tree — to retain most, if not all, of the root system.

When you've freed the roots, place the tree on a large square sheet of burlap; secure the burlap around the roots with twine, fashioning a pouch. This will keep the roots intact and retain soil.

Don't drag the tree. Place it on a hand truck or in a wheelbarrow (it will likely be heavy) to wheel it to the new home you've prepared. Unwrap the roots and discard the burlap and twine.

Place the tree in the hole, adjusting its depth if necessary so that the top of the root ball is slightly higher than in its old home. This allows for settling.

Holding the tree steady (you'll need help with this) backfill the hole with soil, stopping periodically to tamp it down, and ensure the tree remains straight. When the roots are half covered, water the soil in the hole to eliminate air pockets, then continue filling and firming. To give the tree a nutritional boost and optimize

drainage, incorporate a generous amount of compost into the backfill.

Slowly apply about 2 gallons of water to the soil, then apply 2 to 3 inches of mulch around the tree, beginning two inches from the trunk (applying mulch closer to the tree invites insects and other pests, and risks rot.)

Do not apply fertilizer.

Water newly planted trees regularly until frost, then resume watering in spring. Continue this regimen for the entire first growing season, again straight through frost, when roots should be fully established.

RELOCATING EVERGREENS

Both needled and broadleaf

evergreens are best transplanted in early spring, just after the ground has thawed, but they can be moved in August or September. Moving any later shortens the window trees have to establish a root system sufficient to survive winter. Regardless, moving evergreens can be risky, so proceed with caution and do so only if you can accept failure.

Instead of measuring the diameter of the trunk, as for deciduous trees, you'll need to measure the spread of your evergreen's branches to determine how far the roots extend and plan the size of the new planting hole. If the branches on each side of the tree extend 12 inches, dig a hole 9 inches deep and 12 inches wide. If

the branch spread is 3 feet, the roots can be assumed to stretch roughly 16 inches wide and 12 inches deep. Trees with a 5-foot branch spread have roots that are roughly 22 inches wide and 15 inches deep. Prepare a new hole before digging up the tree to minimize the time roots are exposed.

Tie up branches to protect them from being broken during the move; this will also help you see what you're doing and improve access to the soil around the tree. Taking the previous measurements into account, dig up the tree. If you notice roots extend farther or deeper, you can safely cut them off at the recommended size, as that would be sufficient to support a tree of that size.

Place the uprooted tree on a square of burlap (as instructed for deciduous trees) and carry or wheel the tree to the prepared planting hole. Place the tree in the hole, ensuring the top of the root ball is at the same depth it was previously; hold it straight and backfill with removed soil (preferably mixed with compost), tamping as you go to firm the soil and remove air pockets, and watering midway during planting.

Water well, then apply 2 to 3 inches of mulch over the entire root ball, beginning two inches from the trunk. Keep soil moist, but never soggy, until frost.

Evergreens are so named because they don't enter complete dormancy, as deciduous trees do, but remain green year-round. This means they also require water over winter. This is especially important for newly planted or transplanted trees, so keep a hose connected for water during extended dry spells in the absence of snow cover.

By JUDI LIGHT HOPSON, EMMA H. HOPSON AND TED HAGEN
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Are you upset about the toys, books, clothes and other stuff strewn about your house? Do neglected sinks, bathtubs, and floors give you a depressed feeling?

Most of us feel much better when our homes are clean, sparkling, and ready for guests to show up. If yours isn't, don't despair.

A busy lifestyle is forcing most of us to do less cleaning, stay on the computer a lot, and fight for a moment to relax or enjoy family time.

"I feel like a failure when my husband or kids can't find clean socks or clean towels,"

Fixing a messy house can help relationships

says a friend of ours we'll call Mary Beth. "I work a lot, so I feel like the grime is building up. It's affecting our happiness and our lifestyle. I'm drowning."

She goes on to say that tubs of toys, a garage full of junk, piles of clothes all over the place, and books piled next to chairs are destroying her spirit. "I feel like I need a shovel to dig my way out of this avalanche!"

Keep in mind that almost every person and every family experiences this problem sooner or later. But, the solution is not that hard. Start looking for five-minute chores

you can do quickly and consistently.

All of us have a mess because we failed to do the five-minute chores. We let them slide. They built up. Now, they are showing up everywhere. Digging out is possible, and you can see results pretty quickly.

These tips can help:

■ Learn to spot two separate five-minute chores in each room. For example, before you leave the kitchen, put dishes out of the drainer into the cabinet. Or, grab an armful of newspapers to carry to the recycle bin in the garage.

■ Train yourself to straight-

en in short segments. Grab dirty towels in each bathroom and toss them into the laundry room. Quickly put fresh towels on the towel bars from the linen closet.

■ Declutter at every opportunity. While your shower water is getting hot, pull old razors and washcloths out of the shower stall. Throw them into the sink and deal with them after your shower.

■ Ask your family members to do five-minute chores. This includes these types of jobs: carrying the kitchen's garbage bag to the garage, going outside to grab the mail, dusting the TV cabinet.

"I used to mentally collapse looking at our messy house," laughs a nurse we'll call Carla. "Every chore seemed an hour long. When I started tackling chores that took five minutes, the clutter started shrinking. Then, I could sweep or mop much faster. I could run the vacuum with the piles of stuff off of the floor."

Carla is right. Worrying about moving everything out of a room to clean is overwhelming. Looking at such a mountain of work makes us blame our spouse or children. We start to moan and whine because it seems like a gigantic problem. And, it is.

"Folding towels, throwing in one load of laundry, wiping out the fridge with a damp cloth, or sweeping off the front porch are small chores anyone can do fast," says a father we'll call Fred. "My wife and I try to do some chores while talking on the phone or waiting for dinner to cook."

"Once you convince yourself your five-minute chores are adding up," says Fred, "you'll form the habit of good housekeeping."

Judi Light Hopson is the executive director of the stress management website USA Wellness Café at www.usawellnesscafe.com. Emma Hopson is an author and a nurse educator. Ted Hagen is a family psychologist.

Life & Style

In new book, Times reporters detail Weinstein investigation

A new book by The New York Times reporters who uncovered sexual misconduct accusations against Harvey Weinstein reveals the identities of some of the whistleblowers who aided their investigation and includes new details on the movie mogul's attempts to persuade the newspaper not to publish the story.

"She Said," by Jodi Kantor and Megan Twohey, details how Weinstein and a team of lawyers including an unlikely ally, the feminist lawyer Lisa Bloom, tried to convince reporters that accusers including the actresses Ashley Judd and Rose McGowan were unreliable and mentally unstable.

The book, which hits bookstore shelves Tuesday from Penguin Press,

includes a copy of a confidential memo Bloom wrote to Weinstein in December 2016, in which she said she was "equipped to help you against the Roses of the world, because I have represented so many of them."

"They start out as impressive, bold women, but the more one presses for evidence, the weaknesses and lies are revealed," wrote Bloom, who has represented women who accused comedian Bill Cosby, former Fox News personality Bill O'Reilly and President Donald Trump of sexual misconduct.

Bloom also suggested planting articles portraying McGowan as "unglued."

Bloom later told Kantor and Twohey she "deeply regretted" representing Weinstein and called the

endeavor a "colossal mistake."

In another example of pulling back the curtain on their reporting, Kantor and Twohey reveal in the book that Weinstein's longtime accountant, Irwin Reiter, had secretly provided them with information about women who had complained that they were harassed or assaulted by Weinstein, and the company's failure to do anything about repeated complaints.

That included giving the reporters an internal memo in which a movie studio employee described Weinstein's harassment of female employees and actresses.

"She Said" also includes a previously unreported allegation from Rowena Chiu, a former assistant at Weinstein's Miramax studio, who says Weinstein pushed her against a bed and tried to

rape her two decades ago.

Weinstein's lawyer, Donna Rotunno, said those allegations and others in the book are false.

"This book contains one-sided allegations without having adequately investigated the facts of each situation," she wrote, adding that there is a "very different side to every story." Rotunno said Weinstein and Chiu had "a six-month physical relationship" that was consensual. She added that Weinstein was "now studying taking legal action" against Chiu for breaking a nondisclosure agreement.

"As for Mr. Reiter, we know that he has his own dark reasons for sabotaging Mr. Weinstein and the company," Rotunno added.

Weinstein, 67, is scheduled to go to trial in January on charges alleg-

ing he raped an unidentified woman in his Manhattan hotel room in 2013 and performed a forcible sex act on a different woman in 2006.

Among other things, "She Said" details how Weinstein's brother and business partner, Bob Weinstein, tried to convince him to get help two years before he was engulfed by the firestorm of allegations.

It includes a previously unreported letter Bob Weinstein wrote in 2015 in which he told his brother he had "brought shame to the family."

"Your reaction was once more to blame the victims, or to minimize the misbehavior in various ways. If you think nothing is wrong with your misbehavior so in this area then announce it to your wife and family," Bob Weinstein wrote in the memo. (AP)

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

'Riverdale' to receive award from gay rights education group

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The cast and creators of "Riverdale" will receive an award from a gay rights education group for the show's portrayal of LGBTQ relationships in a high school setting. The Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network announced Monday that "Riverdale" will be honored with its Gamechanger Award. The group cited the show's "groundbreaking storytelling about LGBTQ relationships" as why it was chosen to receive the honor. The CW series is a modern take on the "Archie" comics characters. Its stars include KJ Apa, Lili Reinhart, Camila Mendes, Cole Sprouse and Madeline Petsch. The group known as GLSEN was founded in 1990 to address LGBTQ issues in K-12 education. The GLSEN Respect Awards will be bestowed at a gala in Beverly Hills, California, on Oct. 25, and will also honor Octavia Spencer. Previous Gamechanger Award honorees include Yara Shahidi and Zendaya.

Trump slams Legend for not helping with justice reform

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Donald Trump is criticizing musician John Legend for not playing a role in passing criminal justice reform following a TV special on the subject in which the star appeared. Trump also says he hasn't gotten enough credit for signing a law instituting some reforms. The law reduced mandatory minimum sentences, among other measures. In a series of tweets late Sunday and early Monday, Trump called Legend "boring." He also said Legend's wife model Chrissy Teigen as "filthy mouthed." Legend responded by saying Trump is hungry for praise and asked Trump's wife Melania to step in. Teigen wrote she didn't appear on the special and used crude language to describe Trump.

Toronto Film Fest pays tribute to Streep, Phoenix

TORONTO (AP)—The Toronto International Film Festival is paying tribute to Meryl Streep, Joaquin Phoenix and filmmaker Taika Waititi in a gala Monday held amid the festival's unspooling premieres. With the city teeming with stars in town for the festival, TIFF this year added a star-studded fundraising dinner. Streep is being honored the same night her financial industry satire "The Laundromat" is debuting. Also premiering Monday is Phoenix's "Joker," fresh off its Golden Lion win Saturday at the Venice Film Festival. Waititi is receiving the festival's Ebert Director Award, named after the late film critic Roger Ebert. Cinematographer Roger Deakins will also be given an award, as will "Atlantics" director Mati Diop. The French filmmaker will receive the Mary Pickford Award for an emerging, groundbreaking female talent.

Billy Crudup among readers for tribute to DeLillo classic

NEW YORK (AP)—One of the classic works of literary baseball writing, Don DeLillo's "Pafko at the Wall," will get a celebrity reading next month. Actors Billy Crudup, Zachary Levi and Tony Shalhoub will narrate DeLillo's celebrated fictionalization of the 1951 playoff game between the Brooklyn Dodgers and the New York Giants, famously ending in the ninth inning with a pennant-winning home run by the Giants' Bobby Thomson. The reading will take place Oct. 3 at Manhattan's 92nd Street Y (www.92y.org). "Pafko at the Wall," first published in Harper's magazine in 1992, later served as the prologue for DeLillo's post-World War II epic "Underworld," released in 1997. The original piece was named for Dodgers outfielder Andy Pafko, who looked up helplessly at the left field wall as Thomson's hit sailed over him.



LAS VEGAS-BOUND

This Sept. 28, 2015 file photo shows David Lee Roth performing at Ak-Chin Pavillion in Phoenix, Ariz. Roth, the high-kicking lead singer of the rock band Van Halen, will have a mini-residence at the House of Blues Las Vegas in the Mandalay Bay Resort and Casino. He'll be performing Jan. 8, Jan. 10-11 and March 18, March 20-21, March 25, and March 27-28. Tickets go on sale Saturday.

Redmayne happy to reunite with Jones

TORONTO (AP)—As soon as Eddie Redmayne read the script for "The Aeronauts," he knew whom his co-star should be: His "Theory of Everything" co-star Felicity Jones.

"I read it with Felicity in mind and the second I finished it, I called her up and I said, 'I'll do this if you do,'" the star said. "And we sort of made that very quick decision. It

was a spontaneous thing."

Jones, who was nominated for an Oscar for her performance in 2014's "The Theory of Everything," said reuniting with Redmayne—who won an Oscar for the movie—"felt really natural."

"But the thing that pushed it was that the parts were so good," she said. "I mean, if one of us had read it and

one part hadn't been good, it would it would never have worked. But they were both brilliantly written. They were both parts that we were ready to do at that moment. And I think it made it feel more of an adventure coming back together and it made the film feel like it was part of some kind of a narrative in some way, obviously pivoting from 'Theory of Everything.'"

Even for Trump, it's been a busy stretch of media attacks

NEW YORK (AP)—Even for a president who has made attacks on the media routine, the past few days have seemed turbo-charged.

Within five days, President Donald Trump has tweeted a video of the CNN logo bursting into flames,

asserted that two Washington Post reporters should be barred from the White House and got into a tweet-storm with singer John Legend and his wife, model Chrissy Teigen after an MSNBC program on criminal justice reform.

He also summoned Fox News' John Roberts to the Oval Office to complain about coverage of the Sharpie-expanded Hurricane Dorian forecast map. He called a reporter for The New York Times an "Obama toady."

Lost Downton Abbey

in the British fog? Catch up here

By **LEANNE ITALIE**
AP ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—Does it feel like forever since we lost the style, splendor and scandals of “Downton Abbey?”

Well, dust off your jewels and put up the kettle because the twists and turns at your favorite Yorkshire estate in early 20th-century Britain are back with a feature film, to the delight of fans and “Masterpiece,” among others involved in creating the show.

“When we agreed to co-produce the television series we had no expectation that this was going to become a darling of the American audience,” said Susanne Simpson, deputy executive producer for “Masterpiece.” “It was really a surprise to all of us.”

So, what to do about all those delicious details that may have faded after the six-season, upstairs-downstairs series

ended in 2015 in the United Kingdom and the following year in the United States. We’ve got you covered with this guide to Downton’s past, but first a quick catch up on the cast.

Key aristocrats and their original actors are back, including the Crawleys, of course. Hugh Bonneville is Robert Crawley, the 7th Earl of Grantham, and Elizabeth McGovern is Cora, his countess. They have three daughters, including their eldest, the opinionated Lady Mary, played by Michelle Dockery.

Maggie Smith reprises her role as the wry matriarch Violet Crawley, Dowager Countess of Grantham. So does her frenemy, Isobel Crawley Grey, played by Penelope Wilton.

Below stairs, Joanne Froggatt remains Anna May Bates, lady’s maid to Mary, and Brendan Coyle returns as her selfless hubby, John Bates.

There are newcomers on the big screen, but we’ll get to that later.

WHERE WE LEFT THINGS

The PBS series concludes on New Year’s Eve, heading into 1926. The rich are selling off their estates in the crash and the middle class is ascending, but there’s even bigger news: Anna procures a shiny silver electric hair dryer at Mary’s request. You know, because progress. And it’s a beaut. Daisy, the assistant cook, can’t resist it, making a mess of her hair.

In other Anna news: She gives birth in Mary’s bedroom, on New Year’s Eve during Edith Crawley’s wedding, no less, as the series winds down.

Sadly, Mr. Carson (the estate’s top dog as butler) has “the palsy,” which did in the careers of his dad and granddad. He agrees to emeritus status, letting the villainous Thomas Barrow take over.

Leading up to her wedding, Lady Edith (the former spinster and one of Mary’s sisters) is surprised at The Ritz by Bertie Pelham, who had previously broken her heart. The arrangements for them to meet were an act of rare kindness on the part of Mary for Edith after years of rocky rivalry between the two.

Pelham begs Edith’s forgiveness before the show concludes with their nuptials. First, Edith comes clean about her daughter, Marigold, who was born out of wedlock, and fends off the initial “damaged goods” qualms of Bertie’s judgy mother.

“Edith is going to be happy. Just think about that,” gushes her American mom, Cora.

“Hoorah,” rejoices Lord Grantham.

“LORD KNOWS THEY DON’T DESERVE THEIR LUCK, THOSE TWO”

That’s how Robert once summed up the Bateses. Before their happily ever after, with a brand new son, Anna and John had virtually no luck at all.

Anna was sexually abused by her stepfather and fought back with a knife—she only cut him—before arriving at Downton. John is an injured war hero (he uses a cane after taking shrapnel in one leg) who was Robert’s soldier-servant during the second Boer War and saved Robert’s life in an explosion. Robert repays the debt by employing John as his new valet, but John must withstand all manner of resistance from doubters on staff who think his disability makes him unsuitable for the job.

John’s personal life was equally challenging. His horrid first wife, Vera, killed herself with arsenic and set it up to look like he murdered her. John was sent to prison for a long stretch but was later freed. He had already spent time in prison after taking the fall for Vera in a theft of regimental silver.

Specifically, 1924 wasn’t kind to Anna and John.

Anna was attacked and raped by a visiting valet, Alex Green, but she tells only Mrs. Hughes, the housekeeper. Green turns up dead after mysteriously being pushed or falling into traffic at Piccadilly Circus. Anna is charged after a witness reports seeing her near the body on the busy London road. Word also leaks of her earlier knife incident, with prosecutors planning to use that against her as evidence that she’s capable of violence.

John is desperate to see Anna cleared. He falsely confesses to the murder as she awaits trial and then flees to Ireland. The two are eventually let off the hook and reunited.

Got that?

“IT IS, DELICIOUS”

Gladys Denker. Septimus Spratt. Violet Crawley. Is there anything more fun on “Downton” than these three?

In 1924, Violet hires Denker as her lady’s maid to replace Collins, who was never given a first name, by the way. Denker is an issue for Spratt, her butler, as Collins pretty much deferred to him. The sharp-tongued Denker, who pops up in Season 5, is another matter.

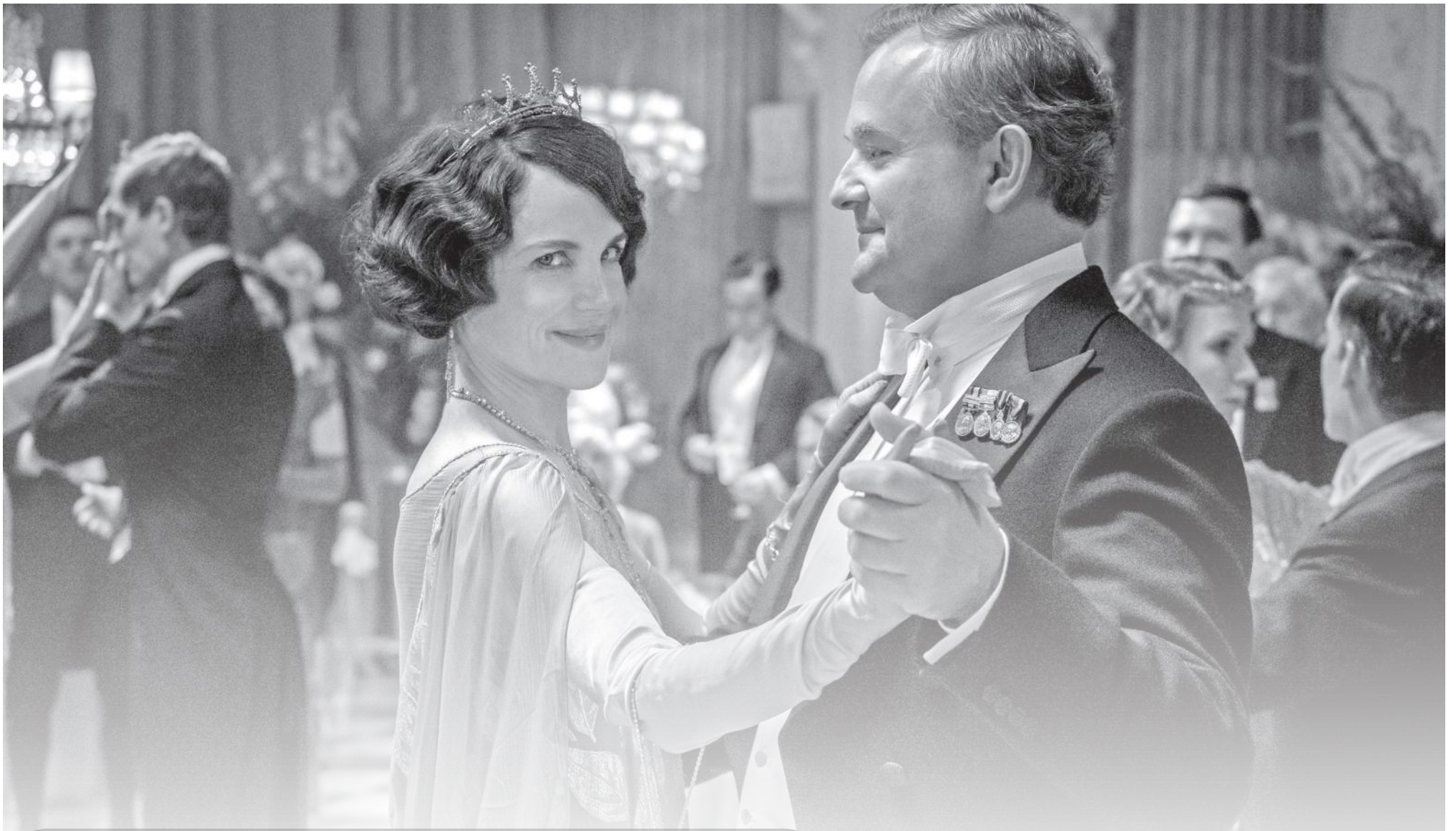
The scheming is divine, especially in the episode in which Denker lies about her ability to make a good chicken broth. She doesn’t, and Spratt sets out to make sure Violet is well aware, including a sink dump of Daisy’s good soup intended to masquerade as one made by Denker.

When Denker is forced to attempt a broth, which is awful—to the delight of Spratt—his scheming backfires. Violet covers for Denker as she samples the foul soup:

“It is, delicious,” Violet manages, spoon in hand. “There’s a point, Spratt, where malice ceases to be amusing.” Denker huffs at Spratt during a Christmas party. “God, you are a dreary little man.”



AP
This image released by Focus features shows Jim Carter as Mr. Carson in a scene from “Downton Abbey.”



This image released by Focus Features shows Elizabeth McGovern, left, as Lady Grantham and Hugh Bonneville, as Lord Grantham, in "Downton Abbey." AP

DEAD BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

The series spans 14 years, starting in 1912, and the dead sort of piled up. Let us honor some of them here.

Robert had no sons so his first cousin, James Crawley, was his presumptive heir. James' only son was Patrick, who was unofficially intended for Mary, though she had little use for him. James died and Patrick was presumed dead in the sinking of the Titanic at the beginning of the series.

That's how Matthew Crawley—a distant relative—became Robert's new heir. Technically speaking, he was a third cousin, once removed. Matthew fell truly, madly, deeply for Mary, but Mary—being Mary—took her time over eight tumultuous years before she finally accepted his second marriage proposal. They married in May 1920. Sadly, Matthew died shortly after their son, George Crawley, was born in September 1921. Matthew was killed in a car accident after visiting his wife and newborn at the hospital.

That made young George the presumptive heir. However, a letter found after Matthew's death has him leaving his half of the estate to Mary after he and Robert divorced it up. We lost Matthew, but his mother Isobel lived on.

Lady Sybil, the youngest daughter of Robert and Cora, died of complications after childbirth. That's how the former chauffeur, Tom Branson, became a single father to their daughter Sybbie, who was named after her mom. Tom was eventually welcomed into the family after a rough road for the Irish socialist.

There are more, including Robert Crawley's beloved Isis, one of his golden retrievers. Show creator Julian Fellowes insists the dog's death was not intended to eliminate her name and its terrorist connotations from the series. He said the prize animal was named after the Egyptian goddess. The Granthams had another dog named Pharaoh.

THOSE GUEST APPEARANCES

Shirley MacLaine played Martha Levinson, mother of Cora. Paul Giamatti was Harold Levinson, Cora's blunt-speaking playboy of a brother.

Theo James had lots to do. He played the drop-dead gorgeous Turkish diplomat Kemal Pamuk, who died while in bed with Mary during Season 1. He's mentioned on occasion after that.

Iain Glen, who was Jorah Mormont on "Game of Thrones," played a newspaper mogul, Sir Richard Carlisle. He was a short-lived love interest of Mary.

Richard E. Grant, Tim Pigott-Smith, there were oh so many more guests, but we'd need to write a book.

The film is set in 1927, hinged on a visit to Downton by King George V (Simon Jones) and Queen Mary (Geraldine James). It will be released Sept. 13 in the UK and Sept. 20 in the US.

There are some other new faces, including David Haig as the king's butler and Max Brown in an undisclosed role.

Backup boyfriend can't say no to teacher he's in love with

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 39-year-old gay male who was in a relationship with a very attractive 44-year-old teacher. He never wanted to commit to a monogamous relationship.

After 10 months of seeing each other, he informed me that he is about to enter into a relationship with a 22-year-old. He said it was nothing I did, but he is just attracted to younger guys when it comes to relationships. He also informed me that he will always be in my life and will never let me go. He said we could see each other secretly, but no more dates or public outings. I can see him only occasionally now, whenever the new boyfriend is working or out of town.

I'm afraid not to go over when he calls because I'm in love with him. I'm afraid if I don't abide by the terms of the relationship he has set, he will disappear out of my life. It hurts to see him in a new relationship, while I beg and wait for time with him. What do I do in this situation?

RUNNER-UP IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR RUNNER-UP: I know what you are experiencing is painful, but if you have an ounce of self-esteem left, cut your losses and stop being this man's "booty call." To say the dynamics of this relationship are unhealthy for you

would be an understatement.

He thinks he will always be in your life because you will tolerate this awful status quo. The only thing he is prepared to give you is more of what you have been getting—pain. Recognize that things don't always turn out as we would wish, get emotional support where you can find it—from friends or a licensed therapist, if necessary—and move on. PLEASE.

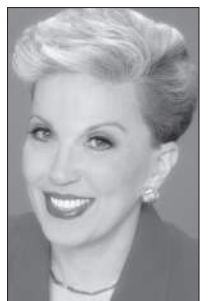
DEAR ABBY: I am an adult in my mid-30s who has no contact with my biological father. My parents divorced shortly after I was born and shared custody of me. When I was staying with my father, he began molesting me. I told my mom because I knew something was not right. We went to court, he received very little jail time and was on probation for a short while after. After he went to court, I stopped all contact with him.

He has tried a few times in recent years to have a relationship with me. He even went as far as contacting me when I was about to turn 15, demanding that I spend time with him. We went to court again, and I was granted a permanent restraining order against him.

Now for my question: He is very ill. I still want nothing to do with him, for obvious reasons. I have an older brother who sees him and takes responsibility for his needs. Am I obligated to

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

help with my father's needs, and should I have to pay for, plan and/or attend his funeral when the time comes?

OUT OF THE PICTURE

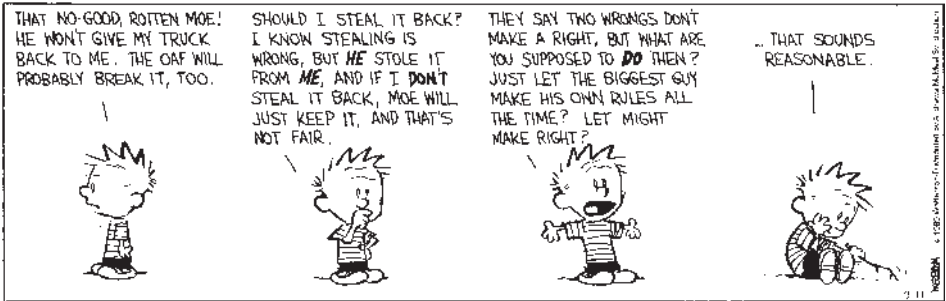
DEAR OUT: No! You are not legally or morally obligated to pay for your molester's care, and you do not have to attend his funeral unless you are doing it to get closure.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



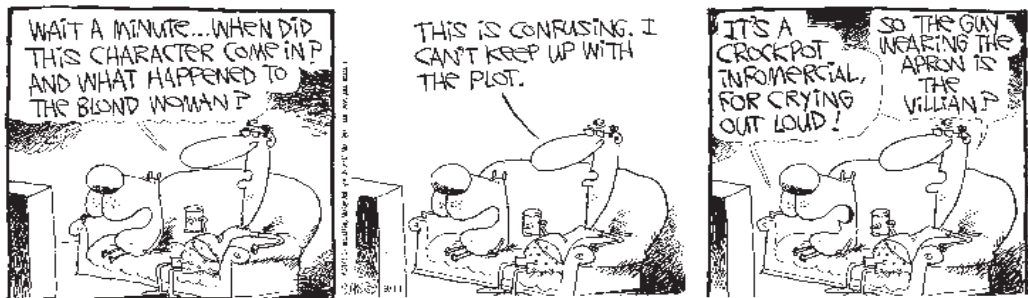
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



Raiders move past Brown saga, top Broncos



OAKLAND, Calif.

(AP)—Derek Carr threw a touchdown pass on the opening drive of the season, rookie Josh Jacobs ran for two scores and the Oakland Raiders responded to a tumultuous week surrounding former receiver Antonio Brown by beating the Denver Broncos 24-16 on Monday night.

The Raiders (1-0) took out all the frustration over the drama surrounding Brown with a convincing win over the AFC West rival Broncos (0-1). The offensive line cleared holes for Jacobs and protected Carr, and the defense harassed Joe Flacco into three sacks and kept Denver out of the end zone until 2:15 remained in the game.

The win spoiled the Denver debuts for Flacco and coach Vic Fangio and ended the NFL's longest opening weekend winning streak at seven games.

The final scheduled home opener at the Coliseum before the Raiders planned move to Las Vegas next season began with derisive chants from the boisterous fans toward Brown. Those only grew louder after each successful pass play as both the fans and Raiders players seemed relieved to have the monthlong saga over Brown in the past.

He arrived with optimism following a trade from Pittsburgh in March. But a bizarre foot injury, fight with the NFL over his helmet, skipped practices, multiple fines, a run-in with general manager Mike Mayock and odd social media posts ultimately led to the decision to release the game's most prolific receiver two days before the opener.

Brown agreed to a deal with New England just hours after being granted his wish to be released by Oakland on Saturday and the Raiders wasted little time proving they had moved on.

They took the opening kickoff and



Oakland Raiders wide receiver Tyrell Williams scores a touchdown as Denver Broncos free safety Justin Simmons tries to stop him during the first half of an NFL football game Monday, Sept. 9, 2019, in Oakland, Calif.

marched 75 yards in 10 plays. Carr completed all five passes to four receivers, capped by an 8-yard TD to Tyrell Williams.

Oakland added another score in the second quarter when Jacobs

capped a 95-yard drive with a 2-yard run to make it 14-0. Jacobs scored again in the fourth quarter, becoming the first Raider to run for two TDs in his debut.

Carr completed 22 of 26 passes for

259 yards and wasn't sacked once after going down 51 times last year. Jacobs had 23 carries for 85 yards and a 28-yard reception. Williams had six catches for 105 yards, including a game-sealing 10-yard catch on third

down after the two-minute warning. Flacco was 21 for 31 for 268 yards with a 1-yard TD pass to Emmanuel Sanders in Sanders' first game back from a ruptured Achilles' tendon.

After recording an NFL-low 13 sacks last year following the trade of Khalil Mack, the Raiders got off to a much better start this year with the pass rush, sacking Flacco three times. Benson Mayowa had two sacks, becoming the first Oakland player to record more than one in a game since Mack had two against Denver on Dec. 17, 2017. Rookie Clelin Ferrell also had one.

Saints 30, Texans 28

Wil Lutz made a 58-yard field goal as time expired to lift New Orleans over Houston in game that had three scoring plays in the final minute.

Deshaun Watson threw a 37-yard touchdown pass to former Saints receiver Kenny Stills with 37 seconds left, capping a two-play, 75-yard drive that put the Texans in front after they began their final possession down by six with 50 seconds left.

But there was just enough time remaining for Saints quarterback Drew Brees, who capped a 370-yard, two-touchdown performance by completing a 15-yard pass to Tedd Ginn Jr., an 11-yarder to Michael Thomas and another pass to Ginn for 9 yards in quick succession. That allowed New Orleans to save its final timeout until just 2 seconds remained and set up Lutz's game-winning boot.

The 40-year-old Brees completed 32 of 43 passes. He threw one interception deep in Houston territory in the first half that could have proved costly, but did enough to make up for it.

Watson completed 20 of 30 passes for 268 yards and three touchdowns—two of them to DeAndre Hopkins—and also ran for a 21-yard score on a fourth-down play.

THOUSAND OAKS, Calif.

(AP)—For an offense that values continuity, the Los Angeles Rams had no problems bringing two inexperienced linemen into the fold.

Coach Sean McVay was pleased by center Brian Allen and left guard Joe Noteboom during the Rams' 30-27 win at the Carolina Panthers on Sunday. The second-year pros opened the way for 166 yards rushing with an average of 5.2 yards per carry.

Allen and Noteboom both made their first career starts after the Rams did not re-sign veterans John Sullivan and Rodger Saffold.

"I thought they were really productive," McVay said Monday night. "Took us a little bit to get going offensively, but once we settled in I thought the removal that we got in the run game, the way they protected for the most part, was really a great job by those guys."

Allen was just as effective in handling the mechanics of

Rams' McVay pleased by new faces up front, familiar result

his position, such as calling out protections. The Rams were not flagged for any false start or delay of game penalties, and Allen was even able to help quarterback Jared Goff get Panthers defensive tackle Gerald McCoy to jump offside on a key third down in the third quarter.

"He and Jared, their rapport continues to grow, and to be able to do it in a game that actually counts and be able to evaluate him, especially against the caliber of players and the structure of defenses that coach (Ron) Rivera was activating, we were really pleased with Brian," McVay said. "I would say we're proud of the performance, excited about it, but not surprised."

For all the concern about Todd Gurley's knee, the Rams showed they can still run the ball with their star back leading the way. Gurley had 64 yards rushing on 10

carries in the fourth quarter, finishing with 97 yards on 14 attempts. But it will be more of a committee effort this season to keep Gurley healthy. Malcolm Brown added 53 yards rushing and two short touchdowns as the main back near the goal line.

The usually solid Rams special teams had an off day, with Greg Zuerlein missing a late field goal and return specialist JoJo Natson fielding a punt inside his own 5. Punter Johnny Hekker could have done more for the brand, as his first boot of the season traveled 7 yards. Hekker also had a punt blocked to set up a touchdown run by Christian McCaffrey.

Outside linebacker Dante Fowler Jr. sacked Cam Newton twice, matching his seven-game total with the Rams last year after being acquired from Jacksonville in a mid-season trade. Fowler said having a whole offseason to

understand the nuances of defensive coordinator Wade Phillips' system helped him to get off to a fast start. "It's a big, huge difference just being in the system," Fowler said Monday. "When I first came in, it was like I had four days to get ready, learn a whole new playbook."

Wentz, Jackson show off Eagles' dynamic offense

In Philadelphia, Carson Wentz shook off the rust quickly and DeSean Jackson provided the spark the Philadelphia Eagles needed to offset a shaky defense. That could be the story all season.

Wentz threw for 313 yards and three touchdowns in a 32-27 win over the Washington Redskins on Sunday in his first game back from a back injury that forced him to miss the last five games, including two playoff games, last season.

Jackson celebrated his return to Philadelphia with eight receptions for 154 yards and a pair of 50-plus-yard TD catches.

An offense with potential to be dynamic took a quarter to get going before racking up 436 yards as the team rallied from a 17-0 deficit. The defense surrendered 380 yards passing and three TDs to Case Keenum, didn't get much pressure up front and looked suspect in the secondary before stepping up in the second half.

"It was the difference between the two halves," coach Doug Pederson said Monday. "You think about defensively we couldn't get off the field on third down in the first half, but yet we did in the second half, and offensively we couldn't convert a third down, and in the second half we did. It's just a credit to the guys making subtle adjustments at halftime, but it just boiled down to ex-

ecution, and the only way we were going to get back in the game was to convert those, honestly, and they did a nice job doing that."

Jackson's ability to stretch the field was quite evident on the two deep balls, and his presence makes a talented offense even more dangerous because it opens up things for other receivers. Alshon Jeffery had five catches for 49 yards and one TD, plus he turned a backward pass into a 2-yard TD run. Zach Ertz had five catches for 54 yards. Nelson Agholor and Dallas Goedert weren't big factors only because there's one ball. The offense didn't just rely on the pass. Darren Sproles, Jordan Howard and Miles Sanders combined for 116 yards rushing.

The pass rush was an area of concern entering the season and the lack of pressure on Keenum was obvious. He was sacked once and had too much time in the pocket to pick apart the secondary.

Olympic-bound US gains World Cup quarters

SHENZHEN, China (AP)—The first mission for the U.S. is complete: The Americans are going to the Tokyo Olympics.

And now the World Cup quarterfinals await.

Kemba Walker and Myles Turner each scored 16 points, and the Americans earned a top seed for the quarterfinals by beating Brazil 89-73 on Monday in the final second-round game of the tournament.

The U.S., bidding to become the first nation to win three consecutive World Cups, will face France on Wednesday—and won't have to go through any extra qualifying tournament next summer for the Olympics.

"We're thrilled that we've qualified for the Olympics," said U.S. coach Gregg Popovich, who will lead the Americans in Tokyo next summer as well. "With this new situation in qualifying, you don't want to do that every year. That's a pretty big grind."

It was a win three nations could celebrate: The U.S. victory not only resulted in an Olympic berth but also clinched an Olympic spot for Argentina and a quarterfinal spot for the Czech Republic. The Czechs moved on despite losing earlier Monday to NBA MVP Giannis Antetokounmpo and Greece.

The Czech Republic grabbed the last place in the round of eight via a three-team, points-differential tiebreaker over Greece and Brazil after they all went 3-2 in group play.

"It's already been a dream," Czech guard Tomas Satoransky said.

Greece defeated the Czech Republic 84-77 in Shenzhen, an outcome that meant the U.S. went into the Brazil game assured a spot in the quarters.



United States' Jaylen Brown prepares to dunk during a match against Brazil for the FIBA Basketball World Cup at the Shenzhen Bay Sports Center in Shenzhen on Monday, Sept. 9, 2019.

lead by that much early in the final quarter but could not hold the margin.

Nick Calathes scored 27 points to lead Greece, with 16 more coming from Kostas Sloukas. NBA MVP Giannis Antetokounmpo had 12 points and nine rebounds, but also fouled out on a disputed call.

His brother, Thanasis, was asked about the call. Giannis did not attend the final news conference.

Australia 100, France 98

At Nanjing, Australia avoided facing the United States in the quarterfinals—though the Boomers might have welcomed the matchup.

Patty Mills of the San Antonio Spurs scored 30 points to lead Australia, and Joe Ingles scored 23. Aron Baynes added 21 for Australia's three-man show.

Evan Fournier scored 31 in the losing effort for France, and Nando De Colo added 26.

Lithuania 74, Dominican Republic 55

At Nanjing, both Group L teams were already eliminated from reaching the quarterfinals. Lithuania (3-2) was led by Jonas Valanciunas and Lukas Lekavicius, each with 19 points. Valanciunas also grabbed 10 rebounds.

Rigoberto Mendoza scored 14 points to lead the Dominican Republic (2-3).

All that was at stake was seeding and where it was going, either to nearby Dongguan by bus or back on a plane to Shanghai.

Get the bus ready. France, a 100-98 loser to Australia on Monday, awaits the U.S. on Wednesday in the quarterfinals. Other quarterfinal matchups: Spain vs. Poland and Serbia vs. Argentina on Tuesday, and Australia vs. the Czech Republic on Wednesday.

The only way to stay in the mix for gold now is to keep

winning. That's the approach the Americans—likening the World Cup feel to an NBA Finals feel—have carried throughout the tournament anyway.

"Pop talked about how this is June, this is June basketball," U.S. guard Joe Harris said. "That's what our mentality has got to be like."

Jaylen Brown scored 11 and Harrison Barnes added 10 for the U.S. (5-0).

The U.S. opened on a 14-7

run, then led by as many as eight late in the half—yet

went into the break with only a 43-39 lead, unable to shake Brazil despite shooting 55

percent in the opening 20 minutes thanks largely to Walker and Turner. They were 9 for 11 in the half from the floor combined, while their teammates were 9 for 22.

Eventually, the Americans pulled away.

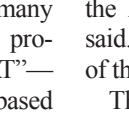
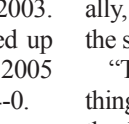
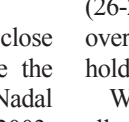
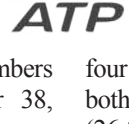
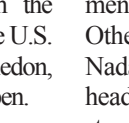
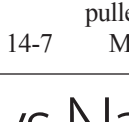
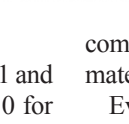
Marcus Smart's buzzer-beat-

ing, hand-in-his-face 3-pointer to beat the third quarter horn put the U.S. up 11, and a 15-6 run to start the fourth—mostly by getting to the rim.

"For most of the game we played them tough," Brazil forward Anderson Varejao said. "But in the end, we couldn't keep up."

Greece 84, Czech Republic 77

At Shenzhen, Greece needed to win by 12 to have a chance of advancing. The Greeks did



NEW YORK (AP)—At some point, of course, Rafael Nadal and the rest of the Big Three will stop winning Grand Slam titles, someone younger will emerge and a shift at the top of tennis will happen.

Just not yet.

And while so much attention in the sport has been focused recently on trying to figure out who will break up the dominance of Nadal, Roger Federer and Novak Djokovic, it might just be more fun to contemplate — from now until the Australian Open in January, at least—how that trio's competition for the most major championships will end up when they've all walked away from the game.

After eventually emerging with a 7-5, 6-3, 5-7, 4-6, 6-4 victory over Daniil Medvedev in a memorable seesaw of a U.S. Open final Sunday night, Nadal insisted that, yes, he wants the record by the time he's done, but, no, it's not all

At 20-19-16, Federer vs Nadal vs Djokovic is fun

that matters to him or how he'll define his own happiness.

That's fine, of course.

To each his own.

But the rest of us can—and should—track it and care.

"He's in a better position today," one of Nadal's coaches, Francisco Roig, said after his guy edged Medvedev in a 4-hour, 50-minute epic. "But all of them are still winning tournaments. It's a long way, but he's in the best position."

Here's the current count: Federer 20, Nadal 19, Djokovic 16.

In 2019, Djokovic and Nadal won two majors apiece, drawing closer to Federer, whose most recent Slam trophy came at the 2018 Australian Open.

Each has a career Grand Slam, too.

Federer's tally: eight from Wimbledon, six from the Australian Open, five from

the U.S. Open, one from the French Open.

Nadal's tally: 12 from the French Open, four from the U.S. Open, two from Wimbledon, one from the Australian Open.

Djokovic's tally: seven from the Australian Open, five from Wimbledon, three from the U.S. Open, one from the French Open.

The other relevant numbers are their ages: Federer 38, Nadal 33, Djokovic 32.

Nadal hasn't been this close in the "standings" since the "score" was Federer 1, Nadal 0, after Wimbledon in 2003. By the time Nadal picked up his first major, at the 2005 French Open, he trailed 4-0.

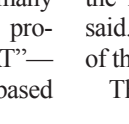
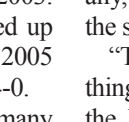
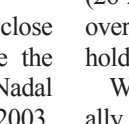
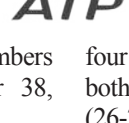
For so many years, so many folks were prepared to proclaim Federer the "GOAT"—Greatest Of All-Time—based

largely on his accumulation of majors and a subjective assessment of supposed aesthetics. Others would point out that Nadal's edge in their head-to-head series, which currently stands at 24-16, should give him the nod. Djokovic, meanwhile, elbowed his way into the "best ever" discussion, too, because he's the only one to have won four majors in a row, leads both of the others head to head (26-22 over Federer, 28-26 over Nadal) and broke up their hold on the No. 1 ranking.

What's most impressive, really, is how this trio has ruled the sport for about 15 years.

"The three of us are doing things that never were done in the history of tennis," Nadal said. "I take pride in being part of this fight."

They have won 51 of the



left shoulder. Federer, dealing with a bad back, bowed out in five sets in the quarterfinals.

Too old for this?

Two 23-year-olds reached the semifinals, Medvedev and Matteo Berrettini, so maybe this was the time for a younger man to hold a trophy?

No. Instead, Nadal became the first man in the professional era to win five majors after turning 30.

"I can say that I'm sure all of us, we're fighting our best to try to make this transition. It's really tough, because these guys, they are playing good tennis. I don't know what else to say. They are just playing amazing tennis," Medvedev said. "It's really tough to beat them, even to get a set from them. Even every game, to win, is tough. We're just doing our best job to try to make it happen sometimes."

In the meantime, Federer vs. Nadal vs. Djokovic provides plenty to talk about.

Yanks end Red Sox's 3-year reign in AL East



BOSTON

(AP)—The music blared in the clubhouse behind the door to manager Aaron Boone's office—"New York, New York" was playing through the speakers, and a few voices could be heard joining in on the lyrics.

The New York Yankees had an extra reason to be happy after ending their longtime rivals' run atop the AL East.

New York officially stopped Boston's three-year reign as division champs, blanking the Red Sox 5-0 Monday night behind another big effort by James Paxton.

"Absolutely, it's awesome," Paxton said. "We feel really confident as a team right now and it feels great to knock those guys out."

Hours after the defending World Series champion Red Sox parted ways with team president Dave Dombrowski, and right after former star David Ortiz returned to Fenway Park three months after being shot, they were shut out at home for the first time this season.

Boston dropped 18 ½ games behind the division-leading Yankees with 18 games left.

The Red Sox are still in playoff contention, but barely. They remained eight games behind the second wild-card spot.

Paxton (13-6) won his eighth straight start, allowing four hits in 6 2/3 innings, as the Yankees increased their lead to nine games over second-place Tampa Bay. New York is tied with Houston for the best record in the majors.

Austin Romine and Gio Urshela each hit solo homers for the Yankees, who took the final three of a four-game series and finished the season 14-5 against their longtime rivals. New York increased its club record to 270 homers, a night after setting the mark.

"It's not about talent. We're very talented, it just happened that over 19 games they were better than us," Boston manager Alex Cora said.

Last year, the Red Sox clinched the East in Yankee Stadium, and also knocked them out of the playoffs there in the divisional round.

"We wanted to be in a position to win this division," Boone said. "We know the Red Sox, defending world champs. We know how great they were a year ago. To play well against that team is satisfying. As far as who you knock out, we want to win a little more to shore up the division."

Paxton struck out seven and walked three in setting a career best in victories.

Eduardo Rodríguez (17-6) gave up one run in six innings,



Boston Red Sox's Jackie Bradley Jr., right, is safe with a double as New York Yankees' Gleyber Torres gets the throw during the third inning of a baseball game in Boston, Monday, Sept. 9, 2019.

striking out nine with five hits and a walk while throwing a season-high 117 pitches.

Astros 15, Athletics 0

In Houston, the Astros showed how powerful their lineup can be for a second straight game.

Zack Greinke struck out five in six strong innings, Robinson Chirinos and Yordan Alvarez each homered twice as Houston hit a major league-record six home runs in the first two innings, and the high-scoring Astros routed the Oakland Athletics for their fifth straight victory.

Monday's offensive outburst, combined with Sunday's 21-1 win over Seattle, helped the Astros set a franchise record for runs scored in consecutive games with 36.

"We were just incredibly explosive again tonight in a game that had a really good feel in the beginning," Houston manager AJ Hinch said. "We ambushed Mike (Fiers). I don't know how to describe it. We came out locked in and did a ton of damage. He made some mistakes, and we didn't let him get away with really any of them."

Helped by six of their seven total homers, Houston raced to an 11-0 lead after two innings. The seven shots matched a franchise record for homers in a game set Sept. 9, 2000, against the Chicago Cubs.

Chirinos capped the first with a two-run homer and hit

a three-run shot in the seventh. He added an RBI single in a five-run second inning.

"It's really special when you see a team put up that many runs in back-to-back games," Chirinos said. "It says a lot about the approach and the talent we have on this team."

Alex Bregman started the offensive display with a three-run homer, and Alvarez followed with a solo shot into the second deck in right field.

Alvarez hit his second solo shot into the third deck in right field in the second inning. Alvarez has 24 home runs, an Astros' rookie record, and has 72 RBIs in his first 71 games, which is tied for second-most in major league history with Ted Williams (1939) and Rudy York (1937), and trailing Walt Dropo's 80 (1949-50).

"We thought this guy was going to be very impactful, but this is beyond belief or anything that people could have expected," Hinch said. "He's doing historic things in a middle of a lineup. He's completely comfortable in the big leagues. It's incredible to see the production."

Mets 3, Diamondbacks 1

In New York, Pete Alonso hit two home runs to take the major league lead, Jacob deGrom struck out 11 and the Mets beat the Arizona Diamondbacks in the opener of a crucial four-game series for both teams.

The Diamondbacks slipped to 2 ½ games behind the Cubs for the second NL wild-card spot and the Mets trail by four.

Alonso hit a solo drive in the first inning, then connected for his 47th home run in the fifth. He moved two ahead Mike Trout for most in the majors and closed within five of Aaron Judge's rookie record set two years ago.

DeGrom (9-8) allowed one run and three hits in seven innings. He gave up a home run to former teammate Wilmer Flores in the fifth.

Seth Lugo pitched two innings for his fifth save.

Merrill Kelly (10-14) allowed three runs on seven hits in six innings.

Braves 7, Phillies 2

In Philadelphia, Mike Foltynewicz threw seven impressive innings, Josh Donaldson and Ronald Acuna Jr. hit homers and NL East-leading Atlanta beat the Phillies.

Atlanta increased its lead over Washington to 9½ games and reduced its magic number to 10 with 17 games remaining. The Phillies fell three games behind the Cubs for the second wild-card spot in the NL.

Foltynewicz (6-5) retired the first 13 batters before Corey Dickerson went deep in the fifth. He gave up three hits, one run and struck out seven. The right-hander won his fifth straight decision.

Aaron Nola (12-5) gave up four runs and six hits in six innings. The Phillies have lost their ace's last four starts.

Cesar Hernandez hit a solo homer off Josh Tomlin in the ninth to cap the scoring.

Brewers 8, Marlins 3

In Miami, rookie Trent Grisham had a career-high five hits and drove in two runs, and Milwaukee won its fourth straight.

Yasmani Grandal hit a two-run homer and Lorenzo Cain had three hits and knocked in a run for the Brewers in a game that lasted 4 hours, 8 minutes.

Milwaukee moved within six games of idle first-place St. Louis in the NL Central. The Brewers remain two games out of the second wild-card spot occupied by the division rival Chicago Cubs.

The game featured 15 pitchers who combined for 14 walks. The Marlins loaded the bases in four innings while the Brewers did it three times.

Pirates 6, Giants 4

In San Francisco, rookie Bryan Reynolds hit a go-ahead single against his former team during a four-run rally in the ninth inning that sent Pittsburgh over the Giants.

Down 4-2, the Pirates used three pinch-hitters and came back against three Giants relievers in the ninth.

Kevin Newman hit a tying, two-run single with one out

and Reynolds with an RBI single off Jandel Gustave. José Osuna added a sacrifice fly in the ninth for insurance.

Fernando Abad (0-2) gave up two hits and a walk while getting only one out.

Richard Rodríguez (4-5) pitched a scoreless eighth inning. Felipe Vázquez worked the ninth for his 26th save in 29 chances.

Brandon Belt had three hits, including a two-run double for San Francisco.

Indians 6, Angels 2

In Anaheim, Shane Bieber pitched seven stellar innings of five-hit ball in his first career start at his hometown stadium, and rookie Yu Chang hit his first major league homer in Cleveland's win over Los Angeles.

Bieber (14-7) struck out eight without a walk while allowing only one run for the first time since July. He retired 17 of his final 18 hitters.

Chang hit a three-run homer and Jason Kipnis had a two-run shot for the Indians (84-61), who pulled right behind Oakland (84-60) for the second AL wild-card spot with their first back-to-back wins in September.

Albert Pujols hit his 655th homer and two-way prospect Jared Walsh added his first career homer for the Angels.

Patrick Sandoval (0-3) took the loss.

Cubs 10, Padres 2

In San Diego, touted prospect Nico Hoerner had three hits and four RBIs in his big league debut and made some nice plays at shortstop as Chicago beat the Padres and snapped a three-game losing streak.

The 22-year-old Hoerner, the Cubs' first-round draft pick out of Stanford in 2018, was promoted from Double-A Tennessee earlier in the day because All-Star shortstop Javier Báez and Addison Russell are sidelined by injuries.

The Cubs hold the NL's second wild-card spot.

Nicholas Castellanos hit a two-run homer and Kyle Schwarber had a solo shot to back Kyle Hendricks, who pitched 5 2/3 strong innings.

Hendricks (10-9) allowed two runs, one earned, on seven hits while striking out five and walking one.

Cal Quantrill (6-7) allowed eight runs and 10 hits in 4 1/3 innings, struck out five and walked two.

Easy win for Bears, Go See Mark

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
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REPORTER

Defending champions Chalan Kanoa Bears and Go See Mark dominated their respective opponents in the 2019 Saipan Baseball League last Saturday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

The Bears eased past the Mariners, 9-2, while GSM crushed the Blue Jays, 15-1. The Bears are still on top of the team standings with their 8-1 record, while the Mariners fell to a 6-2 slate, just slightly ahead of GSM, which improved its mark to 6-3. The Blue Jays remained at fourth place with their 4-4 card. The

Aces (0-10) and Rockies (0-10) complete the standings, but have been eliminated.

GSM needed only three and a half innings to rout the Blue Jays, as the former earned the victory via 10-run mercy rule after scoring 13 runs at the bottom of the third inning.

Eight batters on GSM's top of the order reached home and five of them went at bat for the second time in the same inning and also scored, turning a 2-0 lead to a 15-0 advantage. Jimmy Demapan had two runs and three RBIs in the pivotal inning, while Franko Nakamura contributed two RBIs and one run.

Behind by double-digits,

the Blue Jays must score at least six runs to extend the game. They made only one off a fielder's choice, missing a

chance to gain two more when GSM pitcher L.J. Sebaklim struck out Bren Cruz.

Sebaklim pitched in no re-

lief, shutting down the Blue Jays in the first three innings and allowing only two hits while fanning eight batters.

In the other game last Saturday, the Bears recorded three runs each in the first and sixth inning to beat the Mariners.



Ol'Aces basketball tournament begins tomorrow

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
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REPORTER

The Ol'Aces Alumni Basketball Tournament that was originally set to open two weeks ago will finally begin tomorrow at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Oleai Sports Complex program coordinator Elias Rangamar said that the tournament will definitely start this Thursday as minor repairs at

the gym, like painting and light installation, have been completed.

The tournament will kick off the celebration of the Ol'Aces' 45 years of existence. It will also serve as a fundraiser for the group's girls U18 and boys U14 teams that will compete in the annual Thanksgiving Hoopfest in Guam this November.

Rangamar said 21 teams have confirmed their par-

ticipation in the month-long tournament. Squads are spread out in the co-ed latte division (U15), open classic, and the 4x4 legends class.

The Ol'Aces Pa'keyu, Ol'Aces Pa'fao, Ol'Aces Anemi, Basa Clan, and Young Warriors are entered in the co-ed latte division, while Kobler Boyz, Oleai Boyz, Da Projects, Socho, Ghasias Boys, The Game Athletics, Warriors, and Mix

Plate Combo will be playing in the open classic category. Fantastic 7, Doc's Blood Pressure, Mommas Boys, Sofa King Good, Blue Bloods, J's Shrimp/Chicken combo, Bas Ass, and The Game Athletics will see action in the legends division.

The tournament will feature "first of its kind" rules where there will be no referees and players will call their own fouls and violations.



LOS ANGELES—The Los Angeles Lakers acquired one of the rarest of talents in Anthony Davis this offseason. The 6-foot-10 forward possesses a versatile inside-out repertoire and is one of the league's strongest interior defenders.

And with such a diverse skill set onboard, LeBron James wanted to ensure the 26-year-old's talent would be properly utilized for the betterment of the team.

As soon as the framework for the blockbuster trade was agreed upon with New Orleans in June, James—who will be entering his 17th NBA season—promptly held conversations with higher-ups in the organization and expressed his views on why it's imperative that Davis becomes the focal point of the team's offensive identity, league sources told Yahoo Sports.

James, who will turn 35 in December, has carried the offensive burden throughout his

AD ready to be focal point of Lakers' offense

decorated career. The Lakers, with heightened expectations for the 2019-20 season, will embark on a new chapter with Davis expected to lead the charge.

"I've kind of been a focal-point player my whole career, especially in New Orleans. But first off, to have a guy like LeBron, someone of his caliber, go tell management and ownership and the coaches that he wants me to be the focal point is an honor," Davis told Yahoo Sports. "I know what comes with that, and that's a lot of heavy lifting. I want to be able to do that. I think I have the capabilities of doing that. And obviously with the team's support, it's going to be a lot easier on me. We have a great team."

James is organizing a pre-camp for players in Las Vegas that starts on Sept. 23. It is expected to be a three-day session in advance of training



Los Angeles Lakers NBA basketball players, LeBron James, left, and Anthony Davis share a moment after Davis was introduced at a news conference at the UCLA Health Training Center in El Segundo, Calif., Saturday, July 13, 2019.

camp on Oct. 1.

While James will still be the unequivocal leader and captain of the team, he's never been one to back down after being challenged by a teammate. In fact, he encourages it.

And that's exactly what Davis plans to do at times this season.

"I want to be Defensive Player of the Year," Davis said. "I think if I'm able to do that, I can help this team win."

The offensive end will come around, but defensively, I want to hold myself, teammates, including LeBron, accountable in order for us to take on the challenge of being the best we can defensively. In doing so, we'll have a good chance of winning every night. I want to make sure me and LeBron are on the All-Defensive Team. And for me personally, I just want to be the Defensive Player of the Year. If we're able to hold teams under 100 [points], which is probably unrealistic but it should be our goal, I think we'll have a shot at winning the title."

Year 1 of James' Lakers tenure was saddled with injuries up and down the roster. It was also a roster largely comprised of youth that was still trying to find its way in the league. The Lakers failed to snag a postseason berth for the sixth consecutive year.

Overall, last season was

viewed as a disappointment, but the scrutiny would pale in comparison if this year's team were to fall short of the playoffs.

A hearty chunk of Western Conference teams have also improved during the off-season, with the Los Angeles Clippers, Portland, Utah, Houston, Dallas and New Orleans having improved rosters.

Emerging from the West will not be an easy task.

"If we stay healthy, there's no limit," Davis told Yahoo Sports. "We have the team to win a championship. We have the coaching staff to win, but we've got to come in with the right mindset and that all starts in training camp all the way through preseason and all the way through the regular season. We have to make sure we come in with the same mindset no matter who we're playing. It should be about us. Not about the opponent, not about anything else outside the locker room. If we're all about us and all about what we need to do to win, then we'll be fine."

GAMES

From Page 28

yet to release an official statement on NMSA's request.

NMSA and the CNMI government have to redo the oversight committee after the latter withdrew from its commitment to Saipan's hosting of the Mini Games only to reconsider the decision later.

The Commonwealth was awarded the hosting rights of the Mini Games for the first time in 2014. Then early last year, an oversight committee made up of government officials and members of the business and sports communities, was formed, only to be dissolved when the government, in March this year, announced it's backing out from hosting the Mini Games. Torres said there's a greater need to focus the

CNMI's resources to the recovery efforts from Super Typhoon Yutu thus the government decided to pull the plug on the Mini Games.

However, two months later and after meeting with PGC officials and being presented with a scaled down Mini Games, including slicing the budget from \$8 million to \$3 million, the governor said the CNMI will go ahead with the hosting of the event.

On July 14, during the PGC general assembly in Apia, Samoa, the 2021 Mini Games on Saipan was reaffirmed by the Pacific Games Association members. PGC officials led by chief executive officer Andrew Minogue, were then initially scheduled to visit Saipan this month to get updates on the preparations for the Games before pushing back their travel plans to next month.

MYSTIQUE

From Page 28

doc kept going and this time had Gio Dancel backing him up to pad Mystique's lead. Jandoc added 7 points in the final quarter, while Dancel recorded 8, 6 of them came from beyond the arc, to hand Mystique the 23-point winning margin.

Dancel finished with 13 points, the same output Bron-

cano had, while Joseph Torres and Gaviola also recorded double figures after drilling 12 and 11, respectively.

Mystique managed to run a balance offense, as it registered 29 assists, way more than the 7 that Aqua Resort posted.

David had 20 points for Aqua Resort, which failed to do a follow-up on its 112-68 debut win over TanHoldings.

Meanwhile, TanHoldings

will try to notch win No. 1 after dropping its first two matches when it takes on AK Toyota (1-1) this Friday at 6pm. In the 7:30pm tiff, The Game (2-0) will go for the solo lead when it duels the winless Bridge Capital (0-2).

For the Saturday pairing, Saipan Vegas (2-0) squares off against Mystique in the first game, while Aqua Resort battles Caravan's (1-1) in the

second match.

Mystique 96—Jandoc 29, Dancel 14, Broncano 13, Torres 12, Gaviola 11, Bernardo 8, Tekopua 7, Casbin 2, Galulu 1.

Aqua Resort 73—David 20, Itaas 15, Arellano 13, Maratita 12, Ferrer 5, Laboro 3, Telan 2, Tolentino 2, Deleon Guerrero 1.

Scoring by quarters: 16-19, 43-41, 69-58, 96-73.

OLEAI

From Page 28

monthly meeting last Thursday, NMSA official Laurie Peterka said that the last update she received on the project was that FEMA and the CNMI are currently in the negotiation stage.

"The last that I heard was that in the end of June, there was a reconciliation between the CNMI government's assessment and the federal gov-

ernment's assessment and they were walking on the table to negotiate the difference between the two assessments. The federal government's assessment said it was only supposed to be \$1 million, while the CNMI government said it was \$11 million and so they were negotiating," she said.

Peterka added that the last thing she was made aware of was that the CNMI government has been trying to determine one of three routes that will be taken in the project.

"This is on the CNMI government and it's out of NMSA's hands, about which of the three options within FEMA that would be accepted. Option one would be to put it back exactly the way it was. Option two would be to do some small additions that would be basically hardening the existing structure into something a little tougher and

a little more resilient to another storm, and the third option was a complete do over with the funds, but it would be under particular circumstances," the Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association president said.

The Oleai Sports Complex was hit by a typhoon in 2015 and just when it was about to undergo repairs last year, Super Typhoon Yutu struck Saipan and battered anew the already dilapidated facility.



Raiders move
past Brown saga,
top Broncos

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Yanks end Red
Sox's 3-year
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28 WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2019

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE LACKS GOV'T APPOINTEES

'Waiting game' for Mini Games

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The Northern Marianas Sports Association is still waiting for the governor's appointees to the 2021 Pacific Mini Games' oversight committee to move forward with the preparations for the CNMI's hosting of the quadrennial event.



During NMSA's monthly meeting last Thursday, president Michael White informed the board that they have yet to get a response from Gov. Ralph DLG Torres regarding their request for the appointment of three individuals who would join NMSA officials in the oversight committee of the Mini Games. White also said that NMSA has yet to form an organizing committee because they have yet to receive seed money from the government. Both committees are crucial in fast-tracking the Commonwealth's preparations for the Mini Games.

"We are still, despite several requests, waiting for the governor to appoint three members to the oversight committee to provide us with some seed money that we can use to get the organizing committee started. Basically, not much has been done on the 2021 Games," the NMSA



PACIFIC GAMES COUNCIL PHOTO

In this file photo, Northern Marianas Sports Association president Michael White, fourth left, receives the Pacific Mini Games flag at the closing ceremonies of the 2017 Pacific Mini Games in Vanuatu.

president said.

NMSA raised these concerns, as it is set to meet with Pacific Games Council officials next month. The visitors are expected to inspect

facilities, discuss the latest updates in terms of preparation, and finalize the list of games that will be offered in Mini Games.

Saipan Tribune reached out

to the Torres administration through press secretary Kevin Bautista, but the government, as of press time last night, has

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Mystique's Jetzen Jandoc, right, seen here dribbling away from an AK Toyota defender during their debut game in the Atkins Kroll Marianas International Basketball League, had a triple-double in their victory over Aqua Resort Club last Saturday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

Mystique pummels Aqua Resort

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

Mystique BBQ Grillers made it to the win column of the Atkins Kroll Marianas International Basketball League after walloping Aqua Resort Club, 96-73, last Saturday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

After breathing down on each other's neck in the first half, Mystique managed to gain distance against Aqua Resort in the third quarter and kept widening the gap in the fourth to bounce back from its debut loss (versus AK Toyota) in the inaugural league.

Jetzen Jandoc led Mystique with his triple-double: 29 points, 11 assists, and 14 rebounds. The power for-

ward delivered 12 points in the third quarter, turning Mystique's 43-41 halftime lead to a 69-58 advantage. Jonathan Broncano and Ren Gavio-la also contributed to Mystique's cause in the penultimate frame after combining for 11 markers.

Aqua Resort, which led in the first canto, 19-16, after earning a living from the free throw line (making 11 charities) was suddenly down by double digits going into the fourth period, as only Arnold Arellano made more than two field goals in that quarter.

Aqua Resort continued to have challenges finding multiple players to score in the fourth frame, while Jan-

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By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The renovations and repairs needed at the Oleai Sports Complex are expected to be-

gin in early 2020.

Oleai Sports Complex program coordinator Elias Rangamar said that the improvement covered by funding from the Federal Emergency

Management Agency may take place in January 2020 because bids for the project have yet to be open.

"It's not going to start until sometime next year, probably

not until January. Bids have not been put out yet for the project," he said.

During the Northern Marianas Sports Association

See OLEAI on Page 27



The broken windows at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium may be fixed starting early next year.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA